

THE

# Nonconformist.

THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION

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## Ecclesiastical Affairs.

## THE RITUALISTS AND DISESTABLISHMENT.

It may take some of our readers by surprise to be informed that a new Liberation Society has been organised in this country, which is, if possible, more outspoken than the old one. So far from feeling any jealousy towards it, we, who may be supposed to have a special affection for the first, are rejoiced to recognise in the last a most valuable coadjutor. The two societies will work to the same end, but by different paths. Like the excavators of the tunnel under Mount Cenis, they have begun at opposite sides of the huge creature, but some day the noise of their blastings will be heard mutually, and then shortly they will meet in the middle of the mountain and, we trust, shake hands and rejoice together over the accomplishment of a glorious and blessed task.

A few sentences from the lips of a gentleman who may be considered in the light of President of the new Liberation Society will suffice to show how heartily he, at least, is with us in all that is of chief importance. "A free Church is the only antetype to a free State." "Our present position (that of subjection to the State), . . . I do not hesitate to stigmatise as utterly anomalous, scandalously unjust, and undeniably godless." "It is a violation of all consistency, that an emancipated nation should either hold in subjection, or be held in subjection to, a Church still politically enslaved." "By a series of independent, haphazard reforms, . . . the corporate union of Church and State has been so shattered, that the only hope for vitality lies in the absolute dissolution of the union." "The Church . . . is in absolute subjection to the will and pleasure of a temporary majority in the House of Commons." "Hence, the Church is debarred from self-legislation and self-government, for her houses of convocation are only not silenced, and her bishops are mere nominees of the leader of the leading party in the country. . . . Hence, the property of the Church has been transferred to a commission—ironically misnamed ecclesiastical—practically irresponsible, and consequently it has been diverted, misapplied, and squandered. Hence, too, God's own acre, the ground consecrated for the Church's holy dead, is at this moment the battle-field of contending parties."

These are not, we assure our readers, the words of Mr. Carvell Williams, or of any of his coadjutors. They are the words of the Rev. Orby Shipley, M.A.,\* a clergyman of the Church of England,—a Ritualist of the Ritualists—calling himself a Catholic and hating Protestantism with perfect hatred. The society to which we refer calls itself "the Society of the Holy Cross," the object of which is to be "a permanent mission to the upper classes of society." We do not wish to let it be understood for a moment that this society exists for the purpose of effecting the dissolution of Church and State. Its direct and immediate aim is a spiritual one: perhaps we ought to say an ecclesiastical one. What it proposes to itself is, to get into the midst of the English aristocracy and the people who live in May Fair and the squares, a number of earnest and devoted celibate priests, dressed in the highest M.B. style, with the gentlest but rigidest of ecclesiastical demeanour, signing themselves with the sign of the cross as they wipe their boots on the front-door mat and again as they enter my lady's boudoir, who shall endeavour to warp from their Protestantism, all whom they can influence, and make them into "Catholics," and so to effect in a silent imperceptible way another inward change of the Anglican Church, which would enable her to keep her status and her property, and yet utterly abjure and vilify the Protestantism which is part of the law of the country.

But—Parliament blocks the way. Part of the machinery of this mission, deemed essential to its success is an oratory,—a private chapel of the brotherhood, in which they shall have full licence without let or hindrance to perform the ceremonial "after the ancient fashion." That is to say, with crucifix and candles and ornaments, and incense, and vestments, and elevations, and genuflexions—we don't remember if their Gospel holds any other item than these. The work of perversity is to be begun in the drawing-room; but it cannot be consummated unless Lady Constance can be got into the Oratory, with dim religious light, and due sensuous appliance for exciting devout sentiment, and there with Holy Unction persuaded to go on her knees and confess, and receive absolution and partake of that Holy Thing which will be her salvation. All this, the Church as by law established does not at present admit of. It retains, notwithstanding some of the decisions on Ritualist matters, some little smack of Protestantism. Its Bishops have the power by law, to forbid certain ceremonies which imply the Roman doctrine. And so the mission halts, and the brethren of the Holy Cross are hampered in their laudable endeavours as members of a Protestant Church, to unprotestantise their fellow members "in the upper classes of society." Will they take a hint from us? We give it with the utmost candour. Let them (until they have effected the needed alteration in the Church's relation to the State, and the consequent improvement in the Ecclesiastical quality of the Episcopate), begin at the other end of society, and go amongst the godless thousands with the horny hands. They won't want the Oratory. Mr. Odger's friends are not particular about incense. They will be as easily persuaded in broad day-

light as in religious dimness and gaslight by daytime. An inch or two more or less in a curtsey will not trouble them. The colour of the satin, and its appropriateness to the season are simply inappreciable by men of the trowel and the hammer and the plane. There is a fair field for them, and meanwhile we will help them to get the other little difficulty out of the way.

Mr. Orby Shipley is almost piteous in his cry for—"Toleration"! The Anglican Church crying out for toleration! The Church that, in the person of its priests and members, for so many years resisted toleration with all its might, now arguing for toleration on the ground of justice and right. "*Tempora mutantur et nos mutamur ab illis.*" It is passing strange! The bands of the law are about the knees and the wrists of Mr. Shipley, Mr. Mackenzie, and his friends, and they cannot move their members as they list, and so they cry out, "Loose us, and let us go." And yet they have but to unbuckle the straps with their own fingers and cast away the gilded shackles, and they may have all the freedom they want. But we know very well what they have to say to that. They reply in their hearts—What! forsake the historic Church of England and set up one of our own, and try to persuade people to call us the Anglican Church? What! leave behind us all these fine old cathedrals, and ministers, and parish churches, in which some day we hope to see gorgeous processions and ceremonies as in the olden time, and build new ones of our own out of our own money? What! relinquish all that valuable property, and leave it to the use of heretic Protestants, and evangelical parsons, to be misused to the grievous detriment of the "Catholics"? Never! No; sooner than that we will agitate for the dissolution of the union of the Church with the State, and then take our chance with the rest in the partition of the good things of the Church which will then be necessitated. Meanwhile, they say, we must help the Church into a phase of toleration, under which every priest in the Church may do as he likes in the matter of ceremonial, and talk as he likes in the matter of doctrine, and we will still keep up the fiction of one Church.

There is no need to say that Mr. Orby Shipley's reason for seeking disestablishment and our own are wide as the poles asunder. He wants freedom, that he may crush out the Gospel with his sacramentalism. We want freedom for the Church, mainly that the Gospel may have a fair chance of putting forth its Divine power. What then? Shall we forbid him because he followeth not with us? Not a bit of it. He that is not against us is for us. If Mr. Shipley can cast out the devil in any name, let him. We will hail his success. But let him know this: that with freedom will come possibly a regeneration and revivification of the Evangelical element of the English Church. Nothing is a more likely result of the throwing of men upon their own resources. And then, depend upon it, the Ritualists will find a hindrance of a hundredfold more potency in the way of their insidious attempts at perversity than all the shackles of the law.

## ECCLESIASTICAL NOTES.

A MEETING of the English Church Union was held last Tuesday evening at St. James's Hall, which, for the impudent character of its proceedings,

\* See "The Four Cardinal Virtues" by the Rev. Orby Shipley, M.A., Longmans.

is probably unparalleled. We use a strong word, and one which we have very seldom had occasion to use in these columns, but strong words are sometimes not only necessary but imperative. This meeting of the English Church Union was held for the purpose of expressing sympathy with Mr. Mackonochie, to whom it voted an address expressive of the deep concern at the "distress and trouble" in which Mr. Mackonochie is placed, and protesting "in the most emphatic manner" against the suspension by the Judicial Committee of "the exercise of those spiritual powers which were conferred by the Divine authority of the Episcopate." The Rev. T. Hugo stigmatised the Committee of the Privy Council as men who were "not worthy to tie the shoes of him whom they had maligned"; a Rev. Mr. Oxenham capped this by declaring that the members of the Judicial Committee were not even worthy to clean Mr. Mackonochie's shoes. When the Archbishop of York's name was mentioned there was a "storm of hisses." When the Rev. Orby Shipley moved an amendment against any appeals to the Judicial Committee, there was a "yell of delight." Afterwards, Mr. Stanton, a curate of Mr. Mackonochie's, stripping off his coat, and dashing it on the floor, bounded to the front and delivered a wild address, in which, according to the *Guardian*, Mr. Stanton said that "it was true that he was a minister of the Established Church, but he was also a Catholic priest. The State might, if it pleased, deprive him of his money, his position in the Establishment, his very clothes, but his priesthood it could never take away. Nothing was so fatal as this Establishment, and if the suspension of Mr. Mackonochie should lead to the overturning of that rook's nest, so much the better." Some more speeches of a similar kind followed, and the meeting did not adjourn until midnight. We suppose that the opinion of most people upon its proceedings will be about the same as our own. The men who denounced the Privy Council, hissed bishops, sympathise with a man declared, on his own evidence, to have broken a law which he had sworn to obey, who, amidst tumultuous cheering, described their Church as a rooks' nest—are ordained ministers of the Establishment. They are the servants of the State, bound to their service by the most solemn but voluntary contract. We say that it is impudent and indecent in such men to abuse, in this manner, their employers and superior officers. If such conduct took place in any branch of the Civil Service, it would meet with an instant and most effective check. Why should it be allowed in the Ecclesiastical Service? It is not often that we agree with anything that we find in the *Record*, but its remarks on Mr. Mackonochie in its issue of Monday last—and they apply to all Mr. Mackonochie's party—are thoroughly just and justified. It says:—"There is no wish to force the conscience of Mr. Mackonochie. Let him leave the Established Church of England, if he cannot conform to its doctrines or ceremonial. No one will retard his secession or molest him in his retreat into avowed Nonconformity. But let him not expect impunity if he wilfully attempts to make the Established Church a platform on which to flout the great work of the Protestant Reformation, and mimic the ritual, the vestments, and the ceremonies of Romanism."

The Bishop of Manchester delivered, last week, at Bradford, a sermon on Church and State and Education, in which he enlarged on the difficulties in determining the relations of the Church to the State, and expressed his opinion that they were not less in our own days than in the days before us. But, notwithstanding this, he hoped that the State would long continue to recognise a National Church. He then dwelt upon the claims of the Church in respect to education, and repeated the old and utterly baseless fiction of eighty per cent. of the children throughout the land having been taught in her schools. From this point the Bishop jumped to the Liberation movement, upon which he remarked as follows:—

At a meeting held not long ago in Manchester by a society of men who, under the specious name of liberating the Church from State control, wished to sweep her utterly away, one of the speakers said that the Church of England had won for herself that prestige which it was admitted she possessed, by her efforts in the cause of education. The word "prestige" had a hollow sound, and he did not like it. The French army had a prestige five months ago—he wanted the Church of England to rest upon something solid. Whatever title to respect and confidence she had won by her efforts in the cause of education in the past, he trusted she would not lose it by her slackness and indifference now. When the nation had awoke it would be strange indeed if the Church of God went to sleep. If they had only opened their eyes a little wider and a little sooner, there would be less need for this somewhat rough awakening now.

Has this man, too, become like unto the other Bishops? Is Dr. Frazer going the way of all epis-

copal flesh? What he says is unworthy of what he was. Where is Dr. Frazer's proof that the real object of the Liberation party is "to sweep the Church utterly away"? We put it to him as a gentleman, which surely a Bishop might be.

The meeting held at Sion College last week was a peculiar one. Professor Bonamy Price went to tell the clergy of the City that unless extensive reforms were speedily effected, the existence of the Church as an Establishment was doomed. He saw many things that "portended dissolution"—the existence of aggressive Dissent, and a state of internal dissension. With regard to the Establishment ecclesiastically considered, Mr. Price said it could only be called a Church by a "stretch of courtesy." He then went on to describe her present incongruous position, and to point out the difficulties attending any effectual remedy. Dean Stanley thought that affairs did not look quite so gloomy, and that Church reform was not quite hopeless. Mr. Binney spoke, and spoke with effect, for the character of Mr. Price's paper was enough to turn every man in the room to a Nonconformist: how much more to confirm Nonconformity? These Sion College meetings are doing good in every way. They are preparing the minds of the clergy for disestablishment, and qualifying them to discuss the question with equal candour and good temper.

Some rather severe criticism has been passed upon Dr. Jebb, Canon of Hereford, for refusing any longer to co-operate in the work of revising the translation of the Scriptures. Dr. Jebb, it will be remembered, resigned his place on the Revision Committee a few weeks since, partly on the ground that he doubted whether any but ordained ministers of the Established Church should be concerned in it. He had also, even, come to doubt whether any new translation was necessary. When the Canon's letter of resignation was published, Dean Stanley published another letter from Dr. Jebb, in which the Doctor expressed his great regret that he could not attend the Communion Service in Westminster Abbey, at which, as we know, some other than ordained ministers of the Establishment were present. The case, seemed to go, after this, sadly against the Canon. Only last Saturday it furnished the principal newspaper of his own cathedral city, the *Hereford Journal*, with subject for a caustic and denunciatory article. Before, however, this article was published, Dr. Jebb had written to the *Guardian* to explain that he seldom or ever reads newspapers; that he goes sometimes for weeks together without seeing one, and so he knew nothing about the composition of the Revision Committee. Had he known of it he would never have joined it. This puts the Canon's consistency right at the expense of his charity. He will not of course complain that his explanation is made as public as possible.

When will the Churchmen who like to indulge in controversial topics get to be moderately well informed as to facts? A friend has sent to us a speech delivered by the Rev. J. H. Oldrid, at an agricultural meeting held last month at Alford, in Lincolnshire. Mr. Oldrid, in the course of his speech, expressed his opinion that the disestablishment of the Irish Church would not be followed, as some "sanguine persons" hoped, by the disestablishment of the English Church. The cases, in his judgment, were quite different. Then Mr. Oldrid came out with his "facts." The Established Church in Ireland was only "a fourth" of the population—it being not even a sixth—but in England the "great majority" of the inhabitants are "members of the Established Church"; the fact being that probably not one-third are actual members, not one-fifth positive attendants at her services, and not one-hundredth communicants. But Mr. Oldrid is ready with "a proof"—which is that the Nonconformists were unwilling to have a religious census! Then the reverend gentleman enlarged upon the advantages of the public endowments of the Establishment:—

The endowments of the Church of England ought to be prized not only by the clergy, but chiefly by the laity. Your clergy are no expense to you. Suppose what is now furnished by endowments was required of you, what a burthen would you find yourselves laden with. Besides, our endowments enable us all to contribute more liberally than others to charities of various kinds, such as hospitals, sick and wounded, and the Captain's funds. Such being the case, I trust the laity will look well after the endowments of the Church of England.

Could any advantages be better proved? "Your clergy are no expense to you"; but who pay tithes? Then the clergy contribute to all sorts of specified charities, and so relieve the laity. The great advantage of endowments, therefore, is, in Mr. Oldrid's view, to relieve people of the necessity of supporting religion and works of charity. So he appealed to the laity "to look well after them." What must this man think of the laity of his Church?

The Methodists have taken the alarm at Mr.

Gladstone's letter concerning the Pope. The letter is the subject of an elaborate article in the *Watchman* of last week, which says that it may well cause uneasiness to its readers. It looks at it as marking another stage in the progress of "Romanist influence," and it is clear that "the Catholic vote is duly respected." Our contemporary goes on to say:—

What has been done, and still more, what has been promised, is tantamount to a very formal and explicit recognition of the Pope's spiritual authority, and will afford to it very substantial support. We say what has been promised, leaving no doubt that the Premier's words will be understood to imply a promise by a much wider circle than that to which they are originally addressed; and no doubt that they will be construed as a promise, and their fulfilment demanded as such at some future period. It is a day of deep humiliation for our country when a Prime Minister makes such a declaration as this, and in response to a handful of obscure memorialists. But it will be a day of still deeper humiliation, and we sincerely believe of great peril also, for this country when a representative of England shall be found assisting Catholic Powers to devise means to secure to the Pope what this memorial demands—namely, "the continuance of such a temporal sovereignty as will protect him in the discharge of his spiritual duties, together with an adequate income."

Then, aptly enough, the *Watchman* draws a parallel case:—

In fact, the principle, if accepted at all, must be applied throughout, and the Government must find resources to assist the "adequate support" of any functionary who is of great spiritual importance in the estimation of a considerable body of Her Majesty's subjects. Why not guarantee the position of the Chairman of the Congregational Union? Why not help to provide for the adequate support of the President of the Methodist Conference? In these days of religious quality and of levelling obnoxious establishments, why in the name of consistency entertain for a moment the idea of a new form of establishment and endowment? But, doesn't our contemporary see that all this is, in a certain sense, the logical result of the State-Church principle—only why we are bound to support the State Church of Italy as well as those of England and Scotland, is for Mr. Gladstone to explain.

#### DISESTABLISHMENT OF THE ENGLISH CHURCH.

##### CONFERENCE AT BIRMINGHAM.

A conference similar to those lately held in other towns in connection with the Liberation Society was held on Tuesday, the 13th inst., in the Lecture-room of Carr's-lane Chapel, Birmingham. It was largely and influentially attended, nearly 200 gentlemen being present, and all the sections of the volunteers of the town being represented. Like all the preceding conferences, it unanimously approved of the Society's movement for completely carrying out the policy of disestablishment, but it will be seen that the proceedings differed from those of former meetings of the like kind, in that some of the Society's recent adherents complained of its want of thoroughness and decision, and the complaint was echoed by at least one of its old supporters.

Mr. J. S. WRIGHT, chairman of the Birmingham Liberal Association, presided, and, in opening the conference, referred to the fact that Birmingham had not hitherto taken the prominent part it ought to have taken in the work of the Society, but said that it would now be prepared to do its duty.

Mr. CARVELL WILLIAMS, who attended as a deputation, made a statement as to the plans of the Executive Committee, and concluded by urging that the great political power which that town was capable of exercising should be brought to bear on the enterprise in which the Society had embarked.

Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN, who moved a resolution approving of the committee's purpose, said he had only lately joined the Liberation Society, because he had had some doubts as to its thoroughness. He did not see now that the internal condition of the Church was the principle on which they ought to go, and though he would not refuse the assistance of allies within the Church, he would rather assault it from without. He believed the Establishment in England was an injustice; that it had tainted legislation at its source for many years; that it had hindered much that was good and produced a great deal that was bad; that it had embittered social relations, and created and fomented throughout the country an intolerance in thought and action that was very much to be deplored. Church-rates were never abolished until they were made a test question at elections; and he thought that disestablishment should be treated in the same way. For years Nonconformists had been the willing servants of the Liberal party, and now it was time they claimed their wages. (Cheers.) He was certain the political power of Dissenters would be considered a thing of the past if they permitted themselves to be trifled with any longer by a so-called Liberal Government. He did not agree with Mr. Miall that his (Mr. Miall's) late dispute with Mr. Gladstone was a lovers' quarrel. It was nothing of the kind; it was the standpoint of a new agitation, the declaration of the determination of the Nonconformists of this country that the principles which had been already recognised by the Government should have their full application.

The Rev. G. B. JOHNSON, who seconded the resolution, would remind Mr. Chamberlain that they must be wise as well as zealous, and he thought that that

was the principle on which the resolution was drawn up. He believed that there was a great future for the Society. There was no other society like it. Every three years it was reconstructed, so that every facility was allowed for an influx of new life. He did not know any society that was more zealously worked, or that more carefully considered all possible changes of public sentiment, and so acted as to be abreast of them. (Hear, hear.)

The Rev. C. VINCE moved, and the Rev. W. F. CALLAWAY seconded, the next resolution. Mr. Vince said, in reference to what Mr. Chamberlain had said, he might say that the Liberal party in Birmingham had not yet taken in ecclesiastical politics the part it had taken in other subjects appertaining to Liberal politics. (Hear, hear.) That was an explanation of a recent temporary defeat that they sustained. In the contest to which he alluded there were a great many honest members of the Liberal party who had not familiarised themselves with ecclesiastical questions, who were not able to see clearly the great principle involved in the education question. He therefore thought it was time for them to devote themselves to these ecclesiastical questions as heartily as in former times they had given themselves to the suffrage question.

Mr. JESSE COLLINGS asked whether it was the intention of the Liberation Society to make the question a test one in coming elections. Supposing there were half-a-dozen elections before Mr. Miall's motion came on, did they intend to ask candidates to pledge themselves to vote for that motion? When the Nonconformists waited by deputation on Mr. Gladstone on the subject of education, they were sent empty away, and laughed at. When a Roman Catholic gentleman wrote to Mr. Gladstone about the Pope, he received a polite reply. The solution of the matter was, that behind the Roman Catholics there was a vote, while behind Nonconformists, hitherto, there had been nothing at all. He hoped there would be no shilly-shallying. Mr. Gladstone had thrown down the gauntlet; were Nonconformists going to take it up? If they did not, they would deserve all the slaps in the face they got.

The Rev. J. J. BROWN complained of the course pursued by the Society in regard to several questions. He objected to the compromise of the Church-rate question, and to the exclusion of clerical fellowships from the operation of the University Tests Bill. He thought Dissenters had a right to use the churches for the burial service, and ought not to pay fees to the clergy. He also thought that support ought to have been afforded to Mr. Watkin Williams' motion on the Church in Wales. He, however, would heartily support the Society, now that it was about to act resolutely and uncompromisingly.

After some remarks from the Rev. H. W. CROSKY, The Rev. R. W. DALE spoke. He thought the Central Nonconformist Committee in Birmingham should be left a good deal of freedom as to its mode of action on that particular question. The great issue would be raised by Mr. Miall's motion, and he was certain that whatever formal arrangements might be made, they would be prepared in Birmingham to give the motion very earnest support. The question which that motion would raise was very different from all previous issues raised by them. There were a great many in the Liberal ranks who were intensely devoted to the idea of an Established Church. There was present to their minds an imposing dream of removing all injustice arising from such a Church by a scheme of comprehension, which his religious instincts most emphatically condemned. But they clung to that idea, and would cling to it for many years; and gentlemen must not suppose that their (the Nonconformists') course on the subject would be one of uninterrupted success. They must be prepared to find themselves in what some people called miserable, but what he was inclined to call glorious, minorities. (Cheers.) They must recognise the actual condition of affairs; and though he had never shrank from expressing his feelings on great principles, yet he engaged in that contest with a certain degree of reluctance. He confessed that when he considered the religious excellence, earnestness, and zeal of vast numbers of men who believed that the welfare of the country was bound up in the existence of the Established Church, it was a source of the keenest pain to him to be obliged to take a position which seemed to them so disastrous to the interests which were dear alike to him and them; but there were times when they were bound by conscience and by the duty owed to their common Master, and common humanity, to suppress emotions of that kind, and although the reluctance would not disappear, and the pain could not altogether be alleviated, they who saw that the truth was injured, and the spirituality of the Church was corrupted, and the welfare of the nation injured, by the existence of ecclesiastical Establishments, were bound to do their best to secure their fall. (Cheers.) Mr. Dale concluded by expressing the opinion, that it would be unwise at present to insist that every Liberal candidate should be required to pledge himself to support disestablishment. The question must be dealt with according to circumstances.

Mr. CARVELL WILLIAMS, at a late hour, briefly replied to the remarks of some of the speakers. He said he had been somewhat entertained by the ardour of the Society's recruits; for they had talked in the same fiery and uncompromising spirit as the early friends of the Society did before age and experience had made them wiser and calmer. He was content that the Society should be judged by results. It had lived much longer than any previous organisation of a like kind, and its strength had grown with its age. It had made its mark on the statute-book, and to its labours might, to a large extent, be attributed the present state of public opinion on the Establishment

question. Referring to the Rev. J. J. Brown's allusion to Mr. Watkin Williams's motion, he said that that gentleman would not have spoken as he had if he had known as well as he (Mr. Williams) did what was the opinion of the leaders of the Welsh people on the subject. In reply to Mr. Collings, he said that certainly the Society would not advise that in all cases Liberal candidates should be required to support Mr. Miall's motion. The Liberals in some constituencies would be justified in doing so, but it was a matter of time and circumstance. He did not think it wise to bark where they could not bite, and to throw away what strength they had by using it unwisely, and he thought he might refer to some recent events in Birmingham for proof of the truth of that assertion. (This allusion to the recent defeat of the Education League was received with loud cheering.) He had no doubt that substantially they were agreed, and that the Birmingham Voluntaries would do their duty in vigorously supporting the disestablishment motion.

Votes of thanks then closed the proceedings.

#### CONFERENCE AT WOLVERHAMPTON.

On Wednesday, the 14th inst., Mr. Carvell Williams attended a conference held in the schoolroom of Waterloo-road Chapel. It was a good representative gathering.

Mr. THOS. BANTOCK, the ex-Mayor, presided, and after Mr. CARVELL WILLIAMS had spoken, the Rev. T. G. HORTON expressed his gratitude for Mr. Williams's lucid and valuable statement, which he should be glad to see in print for their guidance. He heartily approved of the Society's proposed policy, and thought that the interest of the Liberal party would be promoted by the raising of a grand and noble issue. He suggested whether it would not be well to secure the appointment of a commission of inquiry; for all parties needed information on the subject.

Mr. FULLER referred to the recent refusal of the Evangelical clergy of the town to attend the consecration of a Ritualistic church, as illustrating the disintegrating influences at work in the Establishment.

Mr. PAATT said that some of the working men of Wolverhampton had agreed to form a society for the discussion of political questions, and had included in their principles the abolition of all disabilities on account of religion. Though they might not be much interested in the religious objections to establishments, working men thoroughly sympathised with the political objections to the State-Church system.

The Rev. T. GURRERY (Primitive Methodist), in an able speech, named several points in regard to which the public mind needed instruction.

The Rev. E. MYERS said that he had been trained for the ministry of the Church of England, and it had taken years to wrench him from the system; for he had once indulged in the dream that that Church might become a comprehensive church. Institutional churches, however, never reformed themselves, but were ultimately displaced by other churches.

Mr. S. DICKINSON and the Rev. B. NICHOLSON proposed the appointment of a new committee, which was supported by the Rev. T. JAMES, who referred to his experience in Canada.

In replying to a vote of thanks, Mr. WILLIAMS said that the proposal to move for the appointment of a commission had been considered, but it was thought desirable—in the first instance, at least—to raise a clearer and more decided issue than would be raised by such a motion.

#### DEWSBURY.

On Tuesday evening last, a public meeting was held in Springfield Chapel, Dewsbury, under the auspices of the Liberation Society. C. H. Marriott, Esq., presided, and a number of ministers and laymen were on the platform. After the Chairman had briefly and lucidly explained the object of the meeting,

The Rev. GILBERT McCALLUM moved the first resolution, as follows:—

That this meeting rejoices at the fact that by the disestablishment of the Irish Church, the object of the Liberation Society has been fully realised in one portion of the kingdom, and is encouraged by that event, as well as by the recent abolition of the Establishment in Jamaica and the Bahamas, and of State aid to religion in Victoria, to such persistent exertion as will secure the complete triumph of the principles which the Society was designed to advance.

He said that in the speech of Mr. Hardy, delivered the other day in Bradford, they had a fair sample of the kind of weapons it was designed to wield in defence of the monopoly and the anomaly of a religious establishment. He could not do better than refer to some of the right hon. gentleman's statements:—

First of all, he averred that the only example we had in Scripture was that of a national Church. One person had no right in these days of surprising events, to be astonished at strange sayings, but he (the speaker) must confess that he felt surprised when he read that statement, and thought he must certainly need a pair of spectacles to see correctly the words of the right hon. member for Oxford. (Laughter.) No doubt the Scripture example he referred to was the Jewish Theocracy.

Now granted for a moment, for argument's sake, that the Jewish Church was exactly correspondent with modern religious establishments, that only proved, in his estimation, and in the estimation of every rational man, that religious establishments were an anachronism. (Hear, hear.) The system of Judaism was destined to pass away when a more spiritual religion was established by the advent of the Messiah. The Jewish Church, as such, was entirely broken up, and its grand and costly ceremonial and ritual ceased. They were not now under law, but under grace. But he denied most emphatically the analogy supposed to exist between the Jewish Theocracy and the established religion

of this country. (Hear, hear.) It was a matter purely of imagination. No conclave of priests prescribed the doctrines of the Jewish religion on the one hand, or its ritual on the other. They were a people entirely separated from other nations of the earth, and received their laws from God Himself. Even to the priestly robes, the candles, and the snuffers were authorised by a "Thus saith the Lord." (Applause.) The Jewish system was a mere shadow of good things to come, and was condemned to vanish, and vanish for ever, when the Christian dispensation was established. The two could not be taken as analogous, for in the Jewish Church God was supreme, but in the Church of England, and all established Churches, a sinful, erring man was supreme. They confessed, then, that they were amazed at Mr. Hardy at this time of day stating that the National Church was the only Scriptural Church. (Cheers.) But their surprise was greater when they saw that he ignored the New Testament altogether. He appeared to belong to a time prior to the Christian era, and as if he had never read of the advent of the Messiah, the day of Pentecost, and other events recorded in the New Testament, and as if he had never read that portion of Church history extending over 300 years from Christ to Constantine. (Hear, hear.) Where was the Christian Church during that era? Who was its head? Was it Herod, or Nero, or Domitian, or Diocletian? It was patent to every intelligent man that during the first three centuries of the Christian era, during the period of the Church's purest character and its noblest triumphs, instead of being petted and patronised by the rulers of the land, it was violently persecuted. (Applause.) And yet before an intelligent audience in Bradford Mr. Hardy declared that the only example we had in Scripture was a National Church, and was interwoven with the State in all ages. (Applause.) There was another position which the right hon. gentleman took, and which he evidently wished to be held with great persistency in the coming struggle, namely, that the Church of England was the Church of the nation. He (the speaker) said boldly and most emphatically that if she was the National Church she must prove her nationality, and that she comprehended the majority of the nation. (Hear, hear.) The nation comprised not only England and Wales, but Scotland and Ireland, and taking the Dissenters and Nonconformists of this kingdom together, the members of the Established Church were left in a very beggarly minority. (Hear, hear.) Even taking England and Wales alone, it was certain that not one-half of the population ever darkened the doors of the Established Churches of this country, and as to the religious instruction of the vast and increasing population of the land he held that they were not indebted to the State Churches for that, as Mr. Hardy said they were, but to the voluntary principle, which had done as much for the religious instruction of the people as the State Church, with all its wealth and State privileges. (Cheers.) Once more, Mr. Hardy clearly indicated that the disendowment of the State Church would be the point that would most fiercely contested in the coming struggle. He spoke of the State Church as a wife, and referred to a marriage settlement, and as a dowry was granted to a wife in a marriage settlement, and if she was sent out into the world she had a right to take these things with her. They as Nonconformists had heard of a marriage and of a marriage settlement, and the marriage, let him say, was not a very creditable one for the Church of England, for she was, first of all, married to the Pope of Rome, and was afterwards divorced and married by the merry monarch Henry the Eighth, a practised hand as they were aware in matters of that sort—(laughter and cheers)—for he was married six times. He divorced two of his wives, and not only divorced, but cut off the heads of other two. (Hear, hear.) He was the first head of the Church of England—her first husband. Now by the authority of the book of God, the statute book of heaven, they most solemnly proclaimed the illegality of the marriage, and most emphatically averred that the Church of England had been living in spiritual fornication with the Kings of England from that time to this. Christ and Christ alone was the head—the Husband of the Christian Church, and any Church that married itself to the kings and rulers of this world and to State patronage, and brought themselves under their control, were committing spiritual adultery. (Applause.) As to the claim of marriage dowry they proclaimed that equally illegal to the marriage itself. That she should carry with her what really belonged to her no one would deny, but Mr. Hardy himself made a most important and most candid acknowledgment. He said he thought the money the Church was in possession of might very fairly be called national resources. If so, then, seeing that not one half of the nation attends the Church, seeing that much of the property originally pertained to Roman Catholics, and seeing that the resources of the Church were under the control of the State as national resources, he held that it was perfectly legitimate and right for the State not only to disestablish but to disendow the Church, and devote what truly belonged to the State to other and more laudable purposes than supporting one sect to the disadvantage of another, and to the disadvantage of religion itself. (Cheers.)

The Rev. N. H. SHAW, in seconding the resolution, also replied to some of Mr. Hardy's arguments, and said that the friends of religious equality had just one more fortress to take, and the army of religious equality were all ready, and when the fetters were snapped they might depend upon it when Churchmen felt the sweets of liberty they would rejoice with the friends of the Liberation Society, and they would all be able to say, "Great is the truth, and it has prevailed." (Cheers.)

Alderman CARTER, M.P., on being called upon to support the resolution, was received with much cheering. He said that he supported that resolution with some reserve, for he must honestly confess there were some parts of it that he could scarcely agree with. It said the objects of the Liberation Society had been fully realised in one portion of the kingdom. He was not at all certain whether the Liberation Society had yet done with the Irish Church Establishment. He was not at all certain that it would not be the duty of the Society to turn its attention again to the Irish Church Establishment. There

would be connected with that Establishment for many years an immense amount of property which really and properly ought to go to the State. He was not quite certain if they did not keep their eyes upon that, the principal portion of it would go into another direction. It was not his intention to treat the question lightly. (Hear.) He was not at all certain that the Sedan was taken. He believed their hardest battles had yet to come on. The enemy would be able to consecrate his forces, and be able to fight as she had not yet done. (Hear, hear.) As a member of Parliament he felt that an immense amount of responsibility attached to him in the determination he had made in his own mind in reference to that question. He perfectly agreed with Mr. Mill when he said that the separation of the Church from the State, the disestablishment and disendowment of the English Church, was the next great question which the Liberal party must take in. (Hear, hear.) He was not at all certain that the fact of a large body of Nonconformists of this country taking up that question would not split the Liberal party, and that it would not lead before many years to their going into power, and for the very purpose of preventing them doing what they were met that night to support. It was a responsible position to take when they said they would fight that question in Parliament and out of Parliament. But, whatever might be the consequence, he believed many of them had come to that determination—(applause)—that that should be the next great question, and that, both in Parliament and out, they would press upon the leaders of their party that they must attend to that business next, whatever other great question they took up. (Applause.) Now, taking that position, he thought they would have to submit to an amount of opposition and obloquy which had never yet been experienced in this country up to this time. (Hear, hear.) Religious controversies were always most bitter. Their opponents had up to this time put down the Liberation Society very lightly, and as scarcely worth notice; but now it would be very different, because there would be such a number of members of Parliament who were the backbone of the Liberal party with whom it would become a vital question. They might expect some of those men would quietly put themselves on one side. The whole Tory party and the men who wished to be fashionable of the other party would leave them to fight the battle alone. (Cheers.) He perfectly agreed with them that the object of the Liberation Society was not to destroy the Church, but enable them to go free. They held that State patronage and support was an injury rather than a benefit to the Church, and therefore, though their enemies, or rather those who took an opposite view, might not give them credit for sincerity, yet they held that their connection with the State did them harm rather than good, because it left those outside to say that they only promoted religion for personal purposes—(Hear, hear)—they were not sincere, but that they supported the Church because they were well paid for it. (Cheers.) He (the speaker) sat in the House of Lords nearly the whole time that the bishops were discussing the Irish Church question, and he found that they constantly put the question thus: that religion could not live unless the State paid for keeping it up. They persistently ignored all the efforts the Nonconformists had made. One of them—and he was sorry to hear him make the remark—represented the whole of the Nonconformist ministers as hirelings who scarcely durst open their mouths, because they were dependent upon their congregations for support. (Shame.) In the midst of such men the religion of love was brought down to the level of politics. State policy was their principle of religion, and what was that? It was a compromise, a doing what appeared to be convenient at the moment, rather than what was right. (Applause.) If they noticed the conduct of Parliament, that was always their action. They made the best bargain possible for truth and right, and then fixed it by a compromise. They did not go to what was right and just and proper, but what could be done by compromising matters between the opposition and the men who promoted any measure. Those men's ideas of religion were just the same. Their connection with the State did them harm in this respect—it led them to judge religion on precisely the same test as politics. If all the bishops were out of the House of Lords it would be far better both for them and the nation. (Cheers.) He agreed with Mr. Miall when he said that the principle of the great body of the members of the Liberation Society was to place religion on a higher platform, and to lead men to promote it from nobler and purer motives. The hon. gentleman next proceeded to speak on the political aspects of the question. They would succeed better if they put the question before the people in a political form. The religious question ought to be fairly put, but the people as a rule were not up to the standard of the rev. gentlemen on the platform, and if the question was put before them in a pounds, shillings, and pence form they would more readily understand it. (Hear, hear.) As a politician, he liked to put the question in the form of pounds, shillings, and pence, or in a worldly point of view, if they liked. Nobody could deny for a moment that the State revenues belonged to the nation, but at present they could not be used for the nation, but only for a part of the nation. (Hear, hear.) What they were striving for politically was that that large amount of money appropriated for ecclesiastical purposes should be applied to some object that would benefit the great mass of the people—(cheers)—that all, whatever were their religious views, should have a fair share of the benefit of it. Churchmen nearly always talked as if all that money belonged to them. What a delusion!

(Hear, hear.) It belonged to the whole of the nation, and they had all a right to have a say in the appropriation of it. If they had been left in full possession of it for very many years—if they had had the use of it until it had spoiled them, that did not say it belonged to them. He perfectly agreed with Mr. Leatham, in his speech at Huddersfield, the other day, when he said the Nonconformists were tired of being tolerated. (Applause.) They did not want toleration, and would not have it. (Renewed cheers.) In political matters they had got on an equality with their friends. Disabilities had been removed in political matters, and they did not want to be tolerated in reference to religion. He observed, further, that the money was unjustly appropriated to one party rather than to all parties. He had another objection, that it was not appropriated for the purposes for which they said it was intended. It was agreed on all hands that the Church of England was making more Catholics than all the other societies and congregations in England. (Hear, hear.) They were making them much faster than the Catholics themselves. It was really the great feeder of Catholicism in this country. He objected in the other direction that it was unfair both to the Church and the State that such men as Bishop Colenso should remain in the Church. (Hear, hear.) On all those grounds he objected entirely to the appropriation of State funds for religious purposes. He rejected to Church Establishments, also, because he was a Liberal, and did not like to be surrounded by people who were always standing in the front of the battle against progress. He described the Conservatives as a drag on political progress, and observed that the bishops were the biggest drag of all. (Hear, hear.) He objected to pay a class of men who were always ready to oppose every measure of progress brought forward in this country. Look at the question of the endowed schools. Churchmen had got them nearly all into their own hands, and if it had not been for the bill passed by Parliament last year they would have kept them. Look at all the charities nearly in the kingdom. They were in the hands of the clergy and the Church party. Wherever they had a big charity they would have a nest of Tories. (Hear, hear.) The speaker then at considerable length showed how the revenues of the Irish Church had been abused, and sat down amidst cheers.

The resolution was then put to the meeting, and carried unanimously.

The Rev. H. STURT proposed the following resolution, in a brief speech. It ran as follows:—

That having regard to the facts already stated, as well as to the present state of public opinion, and to the internal condition of the English Establishment, this meeting learns, with great satisfaction, that the Executive Committee of the Liberation Society has resolved upon operations, the definite aim of which will be the application to England and Wales of the policy adopted by the Legislature with regard to Ireland, and that it is the intention of Mr. Miall, M.P., to submit to the House of Commons, next session, a motion having in view that object.

R. O. CLAY, Esq., seconded the resolution, which was afterwards supported by the Rev. W. Best in an able speech, and carried unanimously.

After various votes of thanks, the meeting was brought to a close.

#### ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.

Last Tuesday the Rev. J. Medicraft, of Stockport, gave a lecture in the Town Hall, Ashton, on "The origin, progress, and ultimate triumph of Nonconformity." A. E. Reyner, Esq., occupied the chair, and there were also present on the platform Hugh Mason, Esq., Dr. Galt, N. B. Sutcliffe, Esq., Mr. Waterhouse, and the Revs. J. Hutchison, T. Green, and J. Hughes. The CHAIRMAN remarked that there were many who, like himself, though a thorough Liberal, and desiring to do all that he could for the furtherance of the cause, were perhaps not thoroughly acquainted with the rise of Nonconformity in England, and it was for the removal of this ignorance that Mr. Medicraft was about to lecture. The Lecturer then addressed the meeting, tracing in some detail the cause of Protestant Dissent to the time of the Revolution. At the close of his remarks he said:—"There had also been legislative action which had embodied the principles of Nonconformists in their most positive form. One after another Establishments had given way. In Jamaica and in the Bahamas the Establishment was gone; in Ireland, crushed and cursed for generations by an alien Church, the Establishment was gone. The disestablishment of the Church in Victoria and other colonies was but a question of time, and before many weeks were over, the great leader of the Nonconformists, Edward Miall—(cheers)—would send into the very citadel of the National Establishment a summons to surrender, and though that summons might and probably would be treated with scorn for a while, it would be treated with respect by-and-by, and after protracted haggling about the stuff, and the idols of silver and gold, and the snug places, and vested interests, and what not, the gates would fly back, and the stronghold would vanish as if touched by a wizard's wand, and the Episcopal Church would have a free field, though no longer any favour. (Cheers.)

A vote of thanks was awarded to the lecturer, on the motion of the Rev. J. HUGHES, seconded by Mr. N. B. SUTCLIFFE.

The LECTURER returned thanks, and proposed a vote to the Chairman. This was seconded by the Rev. THOMAS GREEN, and carried with acclamation, and after the CHAIRMAN replied, the meeting separated.

PENTRE BROUGHTON.—The Rev. J. Jones lectured on behalf of the Liberation Society at this town. The lecturer's subject was the Church in Wales, of which he gave many illustrations, especially in respect to

the abuse of Church property in the Deanery of Wrexham.

LEICESTER.—The third of the conferences in this town on the separation of Church and State was held at the Temperance Hall on Friday, Dec. 11th. The Chairman (Mr. H. T. Chambers) in an appropriate address introduced the Rev. E. Franks, of St. Paul's Chapel, London-road, who proceeded to read his paper entitled, "Ought Disestablishment to be confined to Ireland?" Mr. Franks showed the strong analogy which existed between the two establishments, and quoted Mr. Gladstone's speeches on the subject, to indicate that to a considerable extent his arguments in reference to Ireland were equally applicable to England. In concluding his address, Mr. Franks said that disestablishment in Ireland was not asked for by the bulk of the landed proprietors, nor by the capitalists, nor by the learned professions, nor by the mass of the people, but chiefly by the clergy of the Church of Rome. Yet the Church was disestablished, because Old England's love of justice and fair play demanded it. Apply the same rule at home. If the nation, as such, has not yet demanded the separation of Church and State, we know that it will soon do so. Representative men of all parties, in the Church as well as outside, know that justice and fair play, as well as the true interests of religion, demand disestablishment. Public opinion is being formed in England, and the demand will soon come from the intelligence and piety of the people of every hamlet and village, as well as from the great centres of population; as was the case with the Reform Bill, the Education Scheme, the Disestablishment of the Irish Church; and before such demand the most imperious must bow. "No State aid to Religion" will soon be the watchword of the Liberal party, and then justice will be done at home, as well as to the Sister Isle. The lecturer resumed his seat amid loud and continued applause. An animated discussion then took place, which lasted for some time, after which cordial votes of thanks were given to the lecturer and chairman.—The fourth and last of the series of conferences was held on Friday evening. The room was full. Mr. William Baines occupied the chair, and introduced the Rev. Joseph Wood, minister of Creford-street Chapel. The paper was entitled, "The Comprehension Theory of Establishments," and dealt with the subject in a vigorous style. The discussion that followed was very animated, but, as is frequently the case, not confined to the subject of the paper. The interest excited in Leicester by these conferences has been great, and the publication of the papers read in the *Midland Free Press* and *Leicester Chronicle* has given them a wide-spread influence. It is proposed to hold a great meeting at Leicester in the early part of 1871 in support of Mr. Miall's motion.

#### "THE GOVERNMENT OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND."

On Tuesday evening Professor BONAMY PRICE read a long paper on this subject at one of the series of conferences which are being held at Sion College. There was rather a scanty attendance of clergy. Mr. Binney and Dr. Raleigh were among the audience. We are indebted to our contemporary, the *Inquirer* for the subjoined report of the proceedings.

Mr. PRICE took rather a gloomy view of the position and prospects of the Church, and reluctantly confessed his belief that, unless extensive reforms were speedily effected, her existence as an establishment was inevitably doomed. We live, he said, in a day of rapid and momentous changes and alarm; the old Conservative landmarks are one by one removed, and the old quietude was disturbed; the progress of opinion is undermining ancient institutions; mere antiquity is no safeguard against innovation; the *raison d'être* of venerable and historical traditions is freshly canvassed; we have seen the demolition of the temporal power of the Papacy that had resisted so many attacks; we had seen, within a short time, the collapse of the military prestige of one great nation, and the banishment of the ancient dynasty of another; the Irish Church, after a brief agitation, had disappeared. Who could say under such circumstances that the English Establishment was safe? The clergy should be alive to the danger that menaced them, and not yield to a fatal inertia, or fond dreams of security. Looking to the outward position of the Church, the lecturer saw much that portended dissolution. She was surrounded by a growing and aggressive body of dissent, and also by a vast mass of the unattached and the godless, whom dissent could act upon and utilise in its hostile attitude towards her. Still more menacing was the state of internal dissension. Comprehensiveness was the glory of the English Church. In theory she was as inclusive as the nation; the principle of toleration was fundamental to her, and any attempt to abridge it in the present temper of the public mind would be instant ruin. But this theoretical and inclusive Establishment could only, by a stretch of courtesy, be called a Church: it had no spiritual cohesion or unity, no fellowship, no brotherhood, none of the characteristics of a Christian order of life. A mere aggregate of citizens without a common faith and purpose did not constitute a Church, and the comprehension theory was a confounding of all moral and theological distinctions, and could only issue in dust and ashes. Then there were the difficulties connected with the adjustment of the formulaires to the intellectual exigencies of modern life. The mass of propositions that had come down unaltered for three hundred years, and had to be subscribed were not, believed; the active thought and religious earnestness that every way surrounded us had undermined them. Parochial arrangements

were in no better condition; the rector was an absolute ruler in his own parish; the bishop had no authority over him; the people had no voice in his election. There was no such church in all Christendom—with no power of self-action or regulation, no executive, no counsel, no definite law or constitution. What was the remedy for this anomalous Church, if it was any longer to exist, or to discharge the functions proper to it? In his sketch of Church Reform we thought the Professor somewhat vague and impracticable, though he discoursed rapidly and at great length over a variety of topics. But he advocated an admission of the laity to a co-ordinate control in ecclesiastical affairs, somewhat after the plan proposed by Lord Sandon. He would have parochial boards established, elected by the people, like the school boards, to control parish matters connected with the Church; these again to be subject to a central board, nominated by the Privy Council, composed of distinguished men, both lay and clerical. A model already existed of the authority to be exercised by such boards in the governing courts at the Universities. These had a certain independent control over funds, students, the course of education, &c.; but the Church was utterly passive and helpless in giving effect to the least reform, for every change in the law had to be sanctioned by the two Houses of Convocation in both Provinces and the two Houses of Parliament before it could be legal. What action could be taken in the face of such an obstacle as that presented by six Houses of Parliament?

The evening was far advanced when the paper was concluded, and thus a brief discussion only could ensue.

The Rev. JOHN HUNT thought the lecturer was wrong in regarding the Articles as the result of a compromise. He had made the subject a special study, and would say that Cranmer and his successors, until the time of Charles the First, were Calvinists; that the Articles were purely Calvinistic, and were framed with the view only to Calvinists. He thought the sale of livings a great scandal, but if the rector was a despot he might say as the Roman captain said to St. Paul, "With a great sum obtained I this freedom." He should be sorry, from his experience of bishops, to see more power in their hands. A bishop had lately complained to him that he knew not where to look for proper clergymen to fill vacancies; the right sort of men he could nowhere find. Mr. Hunt's reply that, though fifteen years in orders, and a hard-working clergyman besides, he was still without a living, had no effect upon the bishop. He could leave out in the cold such as might differ from him on some debateable point of theology.

Dear STANLEY thought both the lecturer and Mr. Hunt took a too gloomy view of the situation. He thought Church Reform was not such a hopeless affair as had been represented; an Ecclesiastical Commission had been appointed; subscription had been modified; other useful laws had been passed; and it was only by the accident of the war breaking out last summer that the new lectionary movement had not succeeded. He saw in the Act of Uniformity passed in the reign of Elizabeth a precedent for the creation of a Church Board; and we had only to look across the Tweed for the actual existence of an ecclesiastical Parliament, almost co-ordinate with the civil power. But the Dean did not intimate how he thought an English ecclesiastical assembly, partly composed of laymen, could co-exist with the episcopal theory of Government, nor did he notice the condemnation of his own pet scheme of comprehension.

The Rev. T. BINNEY, being called upon, thanked the chairman for his courtesy in inviting him to the meeting; he had listened to the lecturer with deep interest, but he did not think he could properly take part in the discussion. All the difficulties that had been referred to that evening were familiar to Nonconformists for a hundred of years, and he hoped the consideration that such did exist would lead the clergy to look kindly upon those of their fellow-citizens who could not reconcile it with their consciences to minister in the Establishment. He had been reminded by Mr. Price's paper of the qualities that in Rasselas were thought necessary to constitute a poet, and if certain qualities referred to were necessary to constitute a Christian Church, then he feared the Establishment hardly possessed them. If he wanted to make Nonconformists, he could hardly desire anything more effective than the publication of the paper which had just been read.

One or two other speakers followed, and the lecturer briefly noticed the criticisms that had been offered.

Canon Kingsley will read the next monthly paper on Jan. 10—Subject, "Natural Theology."

The Rev. Dr. Octavius Winslow, formerly a Baptist minister at Bath, and more recently at Brighton, was ordained priest on Sunday morning by the Bishop of Chichester.

The Rev. Brewin Grant, for many years an Independent minister at Sheffield, was among the list of candidates for ordination on Sunday at St. Paul's Cathedral. He has been licensed to the Curacy of St. Simon Zelotes, Bethnal-green.

MR. GLADSTONE'S LETTER ON THE POPE.—It has been resolved that a great Protestant meeting shall be held in the course of next month to consider what steps should be taken with respect to the declaration of principles by Her Majesty's Government in reference to our obligations to the Pope, as indicated in Mr. Gladstone's letter to Mr. Dease.

THE NEW TESTAMENT COMPANY.—The Revisers of the New Testament Company concluded their pre-

sent session on Friday, after having sat during the four days as many as twenty-five hours. The Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol presided during the session. The revision of nearly one-half of the authorised version of the Gospel of St. Matthew has now been concluded.—*Times*.

THE IRISH CHURCH AND DISESTABLISHMENT.—The Lord Primate and the Archbishop of Dublin have addressed a communication to the Suffragan Bishops, reminding them that on the first day of the new year "the Church of Ireland will enter on a new condition of things, and one which, though immediately affecting her outward accidents only, must react in a thousand ways for good or for evil on her inward spiritual life." They enclose a special form of prayer, which they recommend to be used on that day and on future occasions.

THE IRISH EDUCATION DIFFICULTY.—The Irish Presbyterians are determined to make a firm stand on the question of Irish education. On this subject, unlike that of disestablishment, they are unanimous. They are strongly opposed to any change in the national system which will tend to make it more denominational than at present. They would prefer, indeed, that changes should be made in the opposite direction, and would be content to accept a purely secular system, rather than that any further advance should be made in the direction of deaomination. It is accordingly announced that the General Assembly's Education Committee are making arrangements to hold public meetings in the leading towns of Ulster in relation to the recent report of the Royal Commission and the action of the Government.

UNIVERSITY TESTS.—At a meeting of the Fellows of Trinity College, Cambridge, held on Friday, a resolution in favour of the abolition of tests was carried by a large majority. The *Pall Mall Gazette* says:—"It is surely time that the University Tests Bill should be passed, or, at least, that the question should be settled one way or another; at present the practical inconvenience of keeping it open is felt in a variety of ways. It is no secret, for instance, that the Merchant Taylors' Company, in selecting a new head-master for their school, thought fit to examine one of the candidates as to his opinions in this somewhat threadbare controversy. It would perhaps be impertinent to infer that the candidate was rejected because his views on the subject were at variance with those of a majority of the electors, but one can hardly suppose that the questions put and the answers given had no influence on the result. Of course any governing body may destroy the prestige of their school by any means, not absolutely illegal, which they may think fit to employ; and we believe the Merchant Taylors' Company claim, as they seem disposed, to exercise, special and peculiar privileges in this respect. It would be well, however, if other bodies, less fortunately situated, when desirous of imposing these tests, were to mention in their advertisement that none but supporters of Mr. Gathorne Hardy and Sir John Mowbray need apply."

PAPAL INFALLIBILITY.—It is stated that Professor Döllinger and two other of the Munich professors have finally signified their intention to refuse submission to the dogma of the infallibility of the Pope. As they are appointed by the State, they will probably retain their professorships, although many bishops may refuse to allow the theological students to continue to attend their lectures. A conflict which has arisen between the parish priest of Mering, near Augsburg—Father Renfle—who repudiates the new dogma, and his ecclesiastical superiors, is exciting much attention in Germany. The priest was suspended by the Bishop of Augsburg, but he set the order at defiance, and his parishioners backed him up in his resistance, though warned by the prelates commissary that sacraments administered by him would have no efficacy. The Bavarian Government, on being memorialised by the inhabitants, directed that the priest should, till further notice, remain local school inspector, registrar, and superintendent of poor and church matters. The Bishop has now excommunicated Renfle, the sentence being served upon him on the 5th by a neighbouring priest, after he had declined an invitation to Augsburg to receive it. The decree is based on Renfle's expressions to the bishops commissary, "I deny the Bishop of Augsburg's right to suspend me. The Bishop no longer belongs to the Catholic Apostolic Church, as he has accepted the conclusions of the so-called Vatican Council. I am priest of that Church which, in 1817, concluded a Concordat with the King of Bavaria; to that society of believers with which the Bishop has lately been connected I will not belong." Renfle continues to exercise his functions, and the matter is expected to be discussed on the meeting of the Chambers.

THE NATIONAL SOCIETY AND THE EDUCATION ACT.—The National Society has issued a paper of tactics to the supporters of Church of England schools, telling them how they may best fight the school boards. They say that two systems have been now established side by side—the one of definite religious teaching in voluntary schools, and the other indefinite religious teaching in rate-founded schools—and these are on their trial. "It does not seem probable that things will continue at all permanently as they now are. It is probable that we shall gravitate more or less rapidly towards one or other of the systems now, or about to be, at work, and one will eventually swallow up the other. The question is, which of the two it shall be." Now, says the National Society, we must manage to make a show of turning out the best scholars, and so we shall get the public voice in our favour, and put down this wretched unitarianism. For this and other reasons they insist

that all the Church schools should be adapted to the better class of children. Never mind the very poor, or the ragged, or the orphans—let the school boards look after them. A religious feeling would, as they admit, prompt the real friends of religious education to go out into the highways and byways for those waifs and strays. But—and it seems necessary to apprise our readers that we are quoting the very words of the circular—"when it is remembered that a large portion of those who are in this condition are so from their own fault, because they are slothful or indifferent workmen, or ill-tempered, or drunken, the position must be felt to be greatly changed, the religious ground must be seen to be very doubtful." That which, however, is to settle the matter for Churchmen, is that the better class boys are likely to stay at school longer, and to be more impressionable, so that they will "often become Sunday-school teachers, parish workers, choirmen, &c." They are a more promising lot, and will stand as much better in the returns, as to make the public believe that the voluntary system is infinitely preferable. Besides, those children who can afford to pay good fees can be got together, and kept under Church influence at a very moderate cost of voluntary subscriptions, while to teach the very poor would require large subscriptions. So they conclude to let the poor children go, and look only after the children of artisans who will every way repay the trouble. Could there be a more ominous exposition of what clerical zeal for popular education really means? We fancy, however, the National Society is mistaken as to the ultimate result.—*English Independent*.

### Religious and Denominational News

Mr. E. S. Lidbrook, B.A., of the College, Regent's Park, has accepted a unanimous invitation to the pastorate of the Baptist Church, Andover, Hants.

It is reported that Mr. Braden, of Huddersfield, has been invited to become the minister of the Weigh-House Chapel, the pulpit of which was for so many years occupied by the Rev. T. Binney.

The members of the Independent Church, Clarendon-road, Kennington, have agreed to invite Mr. Foster, of Plaistow, Essex, to the pulpit now vacant by the removal of the Rev. J. B. Brown, B.A., to his new church at Brixton.

The Rev. Walter Peppercorn, B.A., LL.B., having avowed his belief in the final destruction of the ungodly, has found it advisable to resign the pastorate of the Baptist Church, London-road, Westcote. He would, therefore, be happy to receive communications from any Baptist or Union Church which would not deem the above view of eternal punishment inconsistent with the earnest preaching of the Gospel.

THE BAPTIST DENOMINATION.—The Freeman, from the reports of last year, estimates the total number of members of Baptist churches in the country at not much less than 240,000, which would give considerably more than half a million as the number of attendants at public worship.

STEPNEY.—A service was held at Burdett-road Congregational Church, Stepney, on Nov. 1, in connection with the recognition of Mr. J. Lewis Pearce, of New College. The Rev. H. Crosswell, of Canterbury, read the Scriptures and offered prayer; the Rev. R. Halley, D.D., delivered the introductory discourse. The usual questions were asked by the Rev. W. Bevan, of Harley-street Chapel, Bow. The Rev. J. Bowrey, of Shadwell, offered the recognition prayer. The Rev. John Kennedy, M.A., delivered the charge to the newly ordained minister. The Rev. F. Price, of Corderdale Chapel, Limehouse, offered the concluding prayer. The following ministers were also present:—The Rev. W. Farrer, LL.B., of New College; J. W. Atkinson, of Lettice Chapel; J. Stockwell Watts, of Bromley; A. M. Carter, B.A., of Upminster; W. E. Ellis, Deptford; and T. J. Frey, of Sutherland Chapel, Walworth.

THE EVANGELICAL ALLIANCE.—On Friday morning the annual meeting of the members and friends of this Alliance was held in the Caledonian Hotel, Adelphi, under the presidency of Mr. W. H. Ellis. The report, which was read by the Rev. J. Davis, stated that during the past year branches of the Alliance had been established in the city of Athens, Nova Scotia, and Australia. The foreign operations of the Alliance had been eminently encouraging and satisfactory, and in financial matters it was entirely out of debt. On the motion of Mr. Wilson, seconded by General Brooke, the report was adopted, and a committee for the next year was appointed. A long discussion took place upon the question whether or not any action should be taken in consequence of the present state of affairs in Rome, particularly in reference to the recent letter of Mr. Gladstone, and a resolution was adopted, directing the incoming Council to direct particular attention to the matter. A Council for the next year was adopted, and Dr. Hoby dismissed the meeting with the benediction.

CROYDON FREE CHRISTIAN CHURCH.—The congregation lately worshipping under the ministration of the Rev. R. Rodolph Suffield in the Nonconformist church, London-road, Croydon, met for the first time on Sunday week in their new place of worship in the Wellesley-road, where the temporary iron church lately used by the Baptists had been purchased by Mr. Suffield's admirers. The building, which is comfortable and commodious, was, notwithstanding the severity of the weather, completely filled both morning and evening. Mr. Suffield before commencing his sermon expressed a desire to form a conference for young men and young women, not, as he explained, for the purpose of proselytising to any particular doctrine or opinion, but simply that he and they might enjoy that mutual intercourse

which he hoped might be mutually beneficial. It would always afford him pleasure to meet any persons—whether belonging to his congregation or not—at his own house, in a quiet, unostentatious way, and, so far as he could, give them any advice or assistance they might require. His desire was not to make proselytes, but Christians. The subject of the morning's discourse was taken from 1 Cor. xv. 25, "Let all things be done unto edifying." Mr. Suffield was listened to with marked attention throughout, and at the close a collection was made. In the evening the Rev. James Martineau preached an eloquent and impressive sermon from Psalm lxi. 2, "Lead me to the rock that is higher than I," to an overflowing congregation—many persons being obliged to stand in the lobby for want of space within the building. Mr. Suffield has received numerous letters of sympathy and encouragement in the work which has been commenced, not only from various parts of Great Britain, but also from the continent.

MANCHESTER.—On Tuesday evening, a large company partook of tea in the schoolrooms of Charles-street Chapel; and at half-past six a public meeting was held in the chapel, for the recognition of the Rev. J. S. Whitley, late of Salford, as pastor of the church. R. Harris, Esq., presided. The Rev. H. Varley, of London, having opened the proceedings with prayer, Mr. Harris gave a brief but very interesting narrative of the early history of the church. Mr. J. C. Smith stated the circumstances which led to the settlement of the Rev. J. L. Whitley as pastor. Mr. Whitley gave his reasons for accepting the invitation, and stated what his hearers might expect from him, and what he should look for in return from them. The Rev. A. Maclaren, B.A., of Manchester, an old neighbour of Mr. Whitley's, spoke of the esteem in which that gentleman was held in Manchester and the neighbourhood, and the regret felt at his removal; adding some very useful advice to the church and congregation. The Rev. H. L. Betts, of Manchester, followed, and read a commendatory resolution passed by the committee of the Lancashire Union of Baptist Churches. The Rev. J. P. Mursell paid a graceful tribute to the memory of the late esteemed pastor, the Rev. T. Lomas, and expressed his hearty desire for Mr. Whitley's happiness and success in Leicester. The Rev. J. C. Pike added a few words; after which a tea-service and salver were presented to Mr. Samuel Mather, bearing a suitable inscription in recognition of his many and valuable services to the church; which that gentleman very feelingly and suitably acknowledged. Short speeches were afterwards made by the Revs. J. Williams, H. Wilkinson, W. Bishop, J. Bateman, and N. Haycroft, D.D.; the last-named gentleman giving a sketch of the principles of Nonconformists. After a very cordial vote of thanks to the chairman, the very interesting meeting was closed with prayer by the Rev. J. Kor, M.A.

CALCUTTA.—A numerously attended meeting was held in Union Chapel, Dhurrumtollah, Calcutta, on Monday evening, Nov. 7, for the purpose of according a welcome to the Rev. J. Ross (late of Stirling) who has arrived from home, to be minister of the chapel. The congregation worshipping there was formed at first by the Rev. Mr. Townley, of the London Missionary Society, more than fifty years ago. The present chapel was built soon after. The connection with the London Missionary Society has been always retained, a number of London missionaries having in succession occupied the pastorate. The Rev. Mr. Hill and others succeeded Mr. Townley, and the late Dr. Boaz was pastor for twenty-five years. He was succeeded by the Rev. E. Storrow, who was obliged by the state of his health to return to England four years ago. During the prolonged delay caused by his unwillingness to renounce the hope of returning to India, the duties of the pastorate have been efficiently discharged by the Rev. W. J. Wilkins, of the London Missionary Society, who will now devote his whole time to missionary work. It should be stated that the congregation supports its own minister, while contributing to the funds of the London Missionary Society. A hearty welcome was accorded to Mr. Ross by the congregation, represented on the occasion by Mr. H. Andrews, chairman of the meeting, a gentleman who has been connected with the congregation since it was formed. A farewell address was at the same time presented to Mr. Wilkins on his retirement from the temporary pastorate. This address was accompanied with some parting gifts,—one, a purse of Rs.1000. The meeting was afterwards addressed by several Calcutta ministers representing different Christian denominations in the city. These gentlemen offered a warm welcome to Mr. Ross, spoke in the highest terms of Mr. Wilkins and the former pastor Mr. Storrow, and referred to some of the characteristic features of ministerial life and work in Calcutta. The settlement of Mr. Ross promises to be a happy one.—*Friend of India.*

CROSS-STREET CHAPEL, ISLINGTON.—The Rev. Clement Bailhache having been appointed Association Secretary of the Baptist Missionary Society, his congregation assembled on Tuesday last to take leave of him. The chair was occupied during the first half of the evening by the Rev. Henry Allon, and during the remainder by the Rev. Jesse Hobson. On the platform were the Revs. F. Trestail, S. Williamson, S. Cowdy, P. Bailhache, C. Brake, P. Gast, J. S. Stanion, and Mr. A. H. Baynes. Letters expressive of regret at unavoidable absence were read from Revs. Dr. Raleigh, T. Lessey, C. Geikie, Mark Wilks, and others. The Chairman, in introducing the business of the evening, said he had known Mr. Bailhache during the six and a-half years in which he had held that pastorate, and he could speak in the most unqualified and unreserved terms of his intellectual and spiritual goodness, and his

genial and gentle manners. He felt sure that if he had thought well to have remained in the neighbourhood he would have attained in a few years a very enviable position. His own feelings of esteem for him had no qualifications whatever, and he had never heard a wrong thing said of him or a wrong or unwise thing done by him. Mr. Allon's eulogistic remarks were repeatedly applauded by the large audience. Mr. Ogden, the treasurer, then presented an address to Mr. and Mrs. Bailhache, which referred to the earnest and faithful services of their pastor in the pulpit, the high order of his sermons, the intense interest he had always felt in the welfare of all the people, his assiduity and wisdom in guiding the various institutions of the church, and his sympathy with them in all their domestic and spiritual and business trials. Lengthened reference was made to the services of the pastor's wife, whose constant assistance in all the works of benevolence undertaken by them, and unwearied and self-denying efforts on behalf of the poor, had won their sympathy and esteem. Subsequent speakers made special mention of this part of the address, endorsing all that had been said, and adding much of a highly congratulatory character. Mr. Ogden concluded by presenting Mr. and Mrs. Bailhache with a purse containing one hundred guineas, and an elegant silver card-basket, on which was a suitable inscription. Mr. Haggis, one of the deacons, referred in feeling terms to the great loss the church had sustained. Mr. Templeton dwelt on the labours of the pastor's wife. Mr. Price spoke on behalf of not only the Sunday-school teachers, but also the scholars. Mr. Barnard testified to the appreciation in which the members of the Christian Evangelistic Mission held their minister, and to the deep regret felt by the unofficial members of the church at his departure. Mr. Arthur Cooke spoke of the assistance given by the pastor to the Mutual Improvement Association, and then, amid loud cheers, Mr. Bailhache himself spoke, and tendered his thanks to all who had so warmly spoken of him and his dear wife. The Rev. Jesse Hobson and the Rev. F. Trestail followed in interesting speeches. The Rev. Philip Bailhache thanked God and them for all that he had heard that night of his worthy brother. The Rev. Samuel Cowdy referred to the earlier days of Mr. Bailhache's life. Mr. E. Leach testified to the private worth of Mr. Bailhache, and to the wise counsels he had personally received from him; and after prayer by the Rev. J. S. Stanion, the interesting meeting, which had been prolonged to a late hour, broke up.

### Correspondence.

#### COLLECTIONS ON CHRISTMAS DAY.

To the *Editor of the Nonconformist.*

SIR,—As it is the custom with many congregations, when Christmas Day happens to fall on a Sunday, to have collections and to give the result to some charitable institution, allow me to put in a plea for the Orphan Working School—400 children; and the Alexandra Orphanage for Infants—114 children.

For the last twenty-five years I have not known so much the want of funds to meet ordinary expenses as at the present time. The contributions in aid of the wounded and suffering on the continent are sadly interfering with our home charities. I trust pastors, as well as the liberal and wealthy of their congregations, will not forget this in their distribution of their Christmas benevolences.

Yours truly,  
JOSEPH SOUL.  
Office, 73, Cheapside, London, E.C.

#### THE BURNLEY SCHOOL CASE.

To the *Editor of the Nonconformist.*

DEAR SIR.—I stated in a letter addressed to you some three months ago that I intended to persevere in the attempt to obtain an inquiry into the Burnley School case.

After a prolonged correspondence, in which I found the Education Department most reluctant to consider any representation of facts, I obtained a promise from Mr. Forster that, on a memorial from the parents, he would institute an inquiry into the alleged presentation of children, not duly qualified, for presentation to Her Majesty's Inspector on his last visit to St. Andrew's National School, Burnley.

Parents have apparently satisfied the Department that their children, though not duly qualified, were presented for examination.

But because the name of one does not appear in the list of children examined (how do we know that a false name does not represent the boy?), and because another is reported (by whom we cannot tell) as not examined "with a view to bring a grant to the school," inquiry is again denied.

We have asked for a list of children examined. The Education Department will not give a copy, refuses to permit us to verify statements, and resolves to prevent, if possible, the discovery of abuses.

Were I a clergyman and Conservative, and were the complainants at Burnley fortunate enough to be opponents of the Liberals, Mr. Forster would doubtless have aided us to the full extent of his power. But seeing I am a Liberal and Dissenter, and the managers of St. Andrew's School, Burnley, are Tory Churchmen, Mr. Forster has acted a part I would rather not characterise, teaching me this lesson, never again to trust to

the right honourable gentleman. His betrayal of confidence, in supplying my prosecutors with a copy of a letter, even though it had nothing whatever to do with the charges made, which were duly signed by the accuser, perhaps should be set down to want of thought or carelessness of consequences, but his refusal to grant inquiry is worthy, not of Mr. Gladstone's Cabinet, but of times in which Ministers hid abuses and refused to be parties to reform.

Rumour points to a clever but injurious manipulation of inspectors by Mr. Forster. It says that an inspector for Manchester, known to be favourable to undenominational day-schools, is likely to be removed to a district in which his influence will be effectually nullified, and that a stout champion of denominational education will probably be appointed to inspect the Manchester schools. This will work evil to educational liberalism in Lancashire, and subserve the purposes of such partisans as Canon Toole and Mr. W. R. Callender. An arrangement may be made by Mr. Forster which will throw back the cause of undenominational day-schools. Were he to place sectarian inspectors in all the large and industrial centres, and relegate the Liberal inspectors to the penal settlements of the profession, he would go a long way—and this seems to be Mr. Forster's purpose in life—towards playing the part of a Tory Minister of Education.

Is it not time to speak out plainly on this question of education? Mr. Forster has already done us great disservice. He is actively prosecuting his mischievous policy. If steps are not taken to protest our interests, we shall suddenly waken up to the fact that Mr. Forster has pledged the nation to the endowment of some thousands of sectarian schools, and that the Radical M.P. for Bradford, and Mr. Gladstone's vice-chairman of the Education Committee, is the marplot among the Liberals, unconstitutionally preparing the way for the triumph of the clerico-Conservative party, which triumph, however, need not displace Mr. Forster, who would not be quite at home and in his proper place as the Education Minister in a Conservative Cabinet under the Premiership of Mr. Gathorne Hardy, and with Lord John Manners as a colleague.

CHARLES WILLIAMS.

Accrington, Dec. 16.

### Court, Official, and Personal News.

Last Wednesday, according to custom, the Queen and Royal family attended the special anniversary service in the Prince Consort's Mausoleum at Frogmore. The Dean of Windsor officiated. The members of the Royal household, the servants resident within the Castle and their families, and most of Her Majesty's tradesmen in the town, had permission to visit the Mausoleum.

On Monday morning Her Majesty, accompanied by the Princesses Louise and Beatrice, and Prince Leopold, left Windsor Castle for Osborne, there to pass the Christmas holidays.

The Rev. Dr. Barry preached before the Queen on Sunday in the private chapel at Windsor. Lord Granville dined with Her Majesty on Saturday.

The Prince of Wales has accepted the presidency of the Irish Agricultural Society for the year.

The *Court Journal* understands that the Royal marriage will take place early in March.

The Cabinet Council held on Thursday sat for four hours. Mr. Bright and Mr. Fortescue were the only Ministers absent.

The Duke of Cambridge is suffering from a serious attack of the gout.

The daily papers of yesterday contain the following announcement:—"We are authorised to state that Mr. Bright has resigned. The wish of Mr. Gladstone, and of his other colleagues, warmly expressed from time to time, has alone withheld the President of the Board of Trade, up to the present date, from a step which in his judgment was, and is still, necessary for the complete recovery of his health. It is, on all political grounds, whether of foreign or domestic policy, a matter of sincere regret to Mr. Bright to sever the official tie between himself and the Administration."

The Duke of Edinburgh has made choice of ex-Governor Eyre's son as one of the junior officers of the Galatea, of which the Duke is the commander.

The Royal Academy has lost one of its most eminent sculptors in the person of Mr. Patrick M'Dowell.

Sir Roderick Murchison continues to improve in health, although his complete recovery will be somewhat slow.

Mr. Charles Reed, M.P., has been put on the Commission of the Peace for the county of Middlesex and the city of Westminster.

Dr. Pusey has been seriously indisposed, but he is now recovering.

It is understood that Parliament will be summoned to meet for the despatch of business on Tuesday, the 7th of February, and that shortly after the opening important estimates will be submitted for the approval of the House of Commons, with the object of increasing the efficiency of the naval and military forces of the country.

Mr. Stephen Glover, the well-known song-writer, died on the 7th Inst.

## THE WAR.

## THE CAMPAIGN ON THE LOIRE.

The *Pall Mall Gazette* of Saturday contains an interesting review of the operations of the French Army of the Loire, to which about the middle of November a distinct existence was given by the appointment of General Aurelles des Paladines as Commander-in-Chief. Our contemporary goes on to say:—

The elements of which this army was composed were of the most varied kinds, from old troopers recalled to the ranks, to raw recruits and volunteers averse from all discipline; from solid battalions such as the Papal Zouaves to crowds which were battalions only in name. Some kind of discipline, however, had been established, but the whole still bore the stamp of the great hurry which had presided at its formation. "Had this army been allowed four weeks more for preparation, it would have been a formidable opponent," said the German officers who had made its acquaintance on the field of battle. Deducting all those quite raw levies which were only in the way, we may set down the whole of D'Aurelles' five fighting corps (omitting the 19th) at somewhere about 120,000 to 130,000 men fit to be called combatants. The troops at Le Mans may have furnished about 40,000 more.

Against these we find pitted the army of Prince Frederick Charles, including the Grand Duke of Mecklenburg's command; there numbers we now know, through Capt. Hozier, to have been rather less than 90,000 all told. But these 90,000 were, by their experience of war, their organization, and the proved generalship of their leaders, quite competent to engage twice their number of such troops as were opposed to them. Thus, the chances were about even; and that they were so is immensely to the credit of the French people, who created this new army out of nothing in three months.

The campaign began, on the part of the French, with the attack on Von der Tann at Coulmiers and the reconquest of Orleans, on November 9; the march of Mecklenburg to the aid of Von der Tann; the manoeuvring of D'Aurelles in the direction of Dreux, which drew off Mecklenburg's whole force in that direction, and made him enter upon a march towards Le Mans. This march was harassed by the French irregular troops in a degree hitherto unknown in the present war; the population showed a most determined resistance, *Frances-tireurs* hovered round the flanks of the invaders; but the regular troops confined themselves to demonstrations, and could not be brought to bay. The letters of the German correspondents with Mecklenburg's army, their rage and indignation at those wicked French who insist upon fighting in the way most convenient to themselves and most inconvenient to the enemy, are the best proof that this short campaign about Le Mans was conducted exceedingly well by the defence. The French led Mecklenburg a perfect wild-goose chase after an invisible army up to about twenty-five miles from Le Mans; arrived thus far, he hesitated to go any farther, and turned south. The original plan had evidently been to deal a crushing blow at the Army of Le Mans, then to turn south upon Blois, and turn the left of the Army of the Loire; while Frederick Charles, just then coming up, attacked its front and rear. But this plan, and many others since, miscarried. D'Aurelles left Mecklenburg to his fate, marched against Frederick Charles, and attacked the 10th Prussian Corps on the 24th November at Ladon and Maisières, and a large body of Prussians on the 28th at Beanne-la-Rolande. It is evident that here he handled his troops badly. He had but a small portion of them in readiness, though this was his first attempt to break through the Prussian army and force his way to Paris. All he did was to inspire the enemy with respect for his troops. He fell back in entrenched positions in front of Orleans, where he concentrated all his forces. These he disposed, from right to left, as follows: the 18th Corps on the extreme right; then the 20th and 15th, all of them east of the Paris-Orleans railway; west of it the 16th; and on the extreme left the 17th. Had these masses been brought together in time, there is scarcely any doubt that they might have crushed Frederick Charles' army, then under 50,000 men. But by the time D'Aurelles was well established in his work, Mecklenburg had marched south again, and joined the right wing of his cousin, who now took the supreme command. Thus Mecklenburg's 40,000 men had now come up to join in the attack against D'Aurelles, while the French army of Le Mans, satisfied with the glory of having "repulsed" its opponent, quietly remained in its quarters, some sixty miles away from the point where the campaign was decided.

Then all of a sudden came the news of Trochu's sortie of the 30th of November. A fresh effort had to be made to support him. On the 1st D'Aurelles commenced a general advance against the Prussians, but it was too late. While the Germans met him with all their forces, his 18th Corps—on the extreme right—appeared to have been sent astray, and never to have been engaged. Thus he fought with but four corps, that is to say, with numbers (of actual combatants) probably little superior to those of his opponents. He was beaten; he appears to have felt himself beaten even before he was so. Hence the irresolution he displayed when, after having on the evening of the 3rd of December ordered a retreat across the Loire, he countermanded it next morning and resolved to defend Orleans. The usual result followed: order, counter-order, disorder. The Prussian attack being concentrated on his left and centre, his two right corps, evidently in consequence of the contradictory orders they had received, lost their line of retreat upon Orleans, and had to cross the river, the 20th at Jargeau and the 18th still further east, at Sully. A small portion of the latter appears to have been driven still more eastward, as it was found by the 3rd Prussian Corps on the 7th of December at Nevoe, near Gien, and thence pursued in the direction of Briare, always on the right bank of the river. Orleans fell into the hands of the Germans on the evening of the 4th, and the pursuit was at once organised. While the 3rd Corps was to skirt the upper course of the Loire on the right bank, the 10th was sent to Vierzon, and the Mecklenburg command on the right bank towards Blois. Before reaching that place, this latter force was met at Beaugency by at least a portion of the army of Le Mans,

which now at last had joined Chanzy's command, and offered a pertinacious and partly successful resistance. But this was soon broken, for the 9th Prussian Corps was marching, on the left bank of the river, towards Blois, where it would have cut off Chanzy's retreat towards Tours. This turning movement had its effect. Chanzy retired out of harm's way, and Blois fell into the hands of the invaders. The thaw and heavy rains about this time broke up the roads, and thus stopped further pursuit.

On the subsequent movements on which we have received telegrams during the last three days, the same journal remarks:—"The contest between the Duke of Mecklenburg and General Chanzy, lasting from the 7th to the 16th, without quitting the triangle comprised between Orleans, Châteaudun, and Vendôme, assumes now a defined shape. It is evident that Chanzy would willingly have kept the old position at Meung and Marchenoir, which covered all the roads west and south-west of Orleans; that it was the turning movement of the 9th Prussian Corps which decided him to withdraw from the right bank of the Loire; and that when compelled to choose he preferred the north-westerly direction, which would lead him toward the large depots of recruits (such rather than armies they certainly are) which have been collected at Le Mans and Conlie. His march of the 12th and 13th thus resolved on through the Marchenoir district carried him clean across the Duke's right without being seriously molested, the Germans apparently seeing nothing but the stray party of 2,000 'stragglers' (or *mardeurs*), which they reported at the time and followed up. But on the 14th began some serious fighting for the line of the *Loir*. This river, a very considerable stream, navigable for large boats in it, lower portion about *La Flèche*, runs through the heavy and rich district west of Orleans with a general direction parallel to that of the *Loire* at a distance of about twenty miles further to the north. The principal passages over it just west of Orleans are at Châteaudun and Vendôme; but there is another at *Moré*, just half way between the two and exactly due north of Blois. On the last two of these three passages did Chanzy direct his army. The *Loir* runs in a considerable valley, with a fine position along its western bank, and so well did the French defend this and the passages, having broken down the bridges, that it took a serious action on the 14th, and another on the 16th, to establish the Germans on that side. On Saturday, however, the heads of the columns of the Duke of Mecklenburg were about ten miles beyond the river, following up the French on the roads leading from Vendôme and *Moré* to Le Mans. There were skirmishers and a few prisoners taken at *Epuisay* and *Choué* (telegraphed as *Episyay* and *Droué* or *Droné*), points on these two roads—affairs to be noted chiefly because we hear that 'the Bavarians of Von de Tann' were engaged on the southern road.

It does really appear, therefore, that that exhausted corps has been brought again from Orleans by the necessities of Prince Frederick Charles's strategy. It is quite evident that the retreat is not severely pressed, and gave the Germans no very serious advantage, after the sharp rearguard action of the 16th on the river for the Vendôme passage in which they took seven guns."

The special correspondent of the *Times* with the Germans gives a very striking account of the several engagements at Beaugency. Writing from Meung, Dec. 8th, he says:—"We have now had seven battles during the last nine days, and the constant slaughter and terrible hardship which this incessant fighting, in the depth of winter, involves, is beginning to tell upon both belligerents." What gives these daily encounters a peculiar character (says the *Times*) is the stern determination with which the French renewed the struggle, day after day, still refusing to consider themselves defeated, after a series of undeniable defeats. Again and again the Germans in the morning found themselves in possession of the positions held by the French in the evening; but the French held other positions close to the former, every village serving as a fortress, from which the French when dislodged took up their stand in another, then in the next, and so on from sunrise to sunset; each battle a mere series of skirmishes on an indefinitely extended field, the Germans invariably victorious in the end, but the French unbroken and undaunted to the last. Among the proofs of the obstinacy of the French resistance, it is mentioned that Von der Tann's Bavarians, who left Germany 30,000 strong, had in sixteen battles been reduced to about 5,000 effectives. There are appalling pictures of the battle-field—or rather of a vast expanse of country turned into a battle-field. Thus under date of the 10th we read:—

There is something awful in getting up every morning and going to a battle as regularly and calmly as if one was going out partridge-shooting. Yet for the last three days I have been driving to the scene of slaughter and back again to the same quarters in the evening until the plain has become invested in my eyes with the frightful familiarity, and my landmarks are the same stiffened corpses, which have not yet been removed, and which are scattered for miles over the fields. Day after day to pass the same ditch and see the same contorted features and glassy eyes which thrilled one with horror the first time, still staring at one, to try new roads in order to avoid the ghastly sights of the old ones, but to obtain fresh evidences of the great area over which the fight has been extended, and after passing across the battle-fields of three successive days to find on the fourth a new battle going on at the point where the last one left off—all this is calculated to produce a sense of distress difficult to describe. In no places do the dead lie very thick together, here and there twenty or thirty may be counted in a group, but as a general rule they are sparsely but widely dotted over the plains. Now and then, where a shell has burst in the middle of a battery of artillery, may be seen men and horses

together, but the French fire has not been sufficiently good to render such sights common. I am thankful to say that fatigue parties have been out to-day collecting the bodies and digging graves, which the thickly frozen ground renders a work of some difficulty.

The men and horses were passing night after night round their camp fires, with the thermometer showing ten and twelve degrees of frost. The correspondent had a very narrow escape of being shot dead while on a church steeple watching the fighting.

The same writer, in a letter dated Taloy, Dec. 12, says:—"Yesterday afternoon, when I took my last look at the French army from the church tower of Cravant, it was perfectly visible in the direction of Villermain and Gosnes, and, having held its ground successfully for four days, there did not seem any probability of its now abandoning it, more especially as the position was naturally in the highest degree advantageous. This morning, however, the most minute inspection of the French position failed to discover a French soldier, but we occasionally at long intervals heard the sound of distant cannon, which revealed the startling fact that they were in full retreat. It appears that, late last evening, the avant-garde of the 10th Corps had learnt that the village of Villermain was already evacuated, and immediately following on the track of the enemy, had an engagement of no great importance with their rearguard. Excepting a few shots which we heard exchanged at Cravant, there has been no fighting to-day. If the enemy are anxious to avoid an action, there seems to be no reason why they should not make us follow them to any part of France that suits them. The commander's tactics are decidedly Fabian, and he seems bent upon teaching the French army the important lesson which it was supposed they could never learn, of fighting and possibly winning what seemed a losing game."

In his letter of December 14th from Versailles, the special correspondent of the *Times* makes the following interesting statement:—"Von Werder, who was to have gone from Dijon to Lyons with the Strasbourg army, has been diverted from the latter city, and marches cautiously westward towards Gien. Manteuffel, having left Lille on his right, and captured Amiens and Rouen, was to have gone on to Havre and Dieppe. Two of his cavalry regiments entered the latter city yesterday, but Havre must be looked at twice before it is rushed at. The corps under Manteuffel will probably not move much forward till the Rouen railway has been repaired as far as the Seine outside Paris. The united forces under Von der Tann, the Grand Duke of Mecklenburg, and the Prince, who may be considered the Commander-in-Chief of the German Army of the Loire, with Von Werder on his left flank and Manteuffel on his right rear, were to have gone on to Bourges, where great French ammunition establishments and factories have been at work, and to have occupied Tours, pursuing their successes and breaking up the French forces, part of which they had dispersed in a series of very sanguinary actions. But the execution of that plan—if it were the plan—has been suspended, and perhaps abandoned. It seems as if the Prince would hold the line of the Loire south of the Crown Prince, and would desist from further aggressive movements. The engagements between the Duke of Mecklenburg and the French in front and rear of Beaugency indicate the uncertain character of the latter, who sometimes fight with the utmost tenacity and at times display very opposite qualities. At Meung and Beaugency they made a stiff resistance. On the 8th the battle, after a day's fighting, was indecisive, and it was only by the hazardous experiment of a night attack, brilliantly executed, that the Duke was enabled to get ground from which to begin another day's most bloody combat, which ended on the night of the 9th with the retreat of the French in the direction of the river *Loir*. These combats have rendered it necessary to give the Germans rest, and have also cumbersed them with immense numbers of wounded. Although the French retreated on the 11th from the troops in front of Beaugency, thus leaving Blois open, and the road to Tours free, they are not broken up, and their presence as an army in the field must hamper the movements of the Grand Duke. Nor does it appear that the French have vanished from the front of the force which was facing towards Bourges. Prince Frederick Charles, who was left with one corps, the 10th, at Orleans, where his headquarters stood fast, by all accounts even yesterday, had detached a part of it to strengthen his advanced posts, and was in command of only one division to hold the city and its approaches. If the Germans adopt the policy which is attributed to them, and act simply on the defensive, occupying the line of the *Loire* and *Cher*, the French will very speedily begin to gather heart, and assume the offensive."

On the south of the *Loire* the 9th Corps is reported to have halted and encamped at Cande, ten miles below Blois, where the river *Beauvron* runs into the great stream from the south. But the cavalry outposts are still on the Vierzon-Tours road, interfering with the French cross-communications. We hear nothing of Bouébaki, whom the 3rd Corps and part of the Prince's cavalry are no doubt watching. His object is, it is said, to cover Bourges.

Of Faidherbe there is no certain news. But his appearance near Soissons has produced, apparently, activity on the side of Garibaldi; for while from Langres General Werder's rear was threatened by free corps, against which he sent General von Goltz, in his front the Garibaldians at the same time advanced to Nuits, and attempted to hold that place and close the roads south of Dijon. They were dislodged on Monday (as we learn from Carlsruhe) by two of the three Baden brigades, but with a

loss of 300 killed and wounded, Prince William himself being in the list of the latter. The Germans took 6,000 prisoners.

#### THE SURRENDER OF ROUEN.

The correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph* with General Mantouffel describes in detail the circumstances connected with the capture of Rouen. The division under the command of General von Göben made forced marches towards that city, and anticipated a battle before they reached it. The French General Briand was taken completely by surprise; indeed, before even he had had time to organise defence, or complete his entrenchments, the 8th Army Corps had vigorously attacked and driven back upon the main body the troops he had despatched to watch the movements of the Germans.

Another rapid march of the German line, and the discomfited Frenchman, with his wavering troops, decided at once to retreat. Rouen was left to take care of itself. The 24-pounders lying in the road attested the want of preparation. The French had not had time to put them into position. The batteries were unfinished; while, on either side of the road, the Prussian troops actually marched among the still burning camp-fires of the hostile army. What, then, has General Briand been doing for the last two months? He has had more than ample time, money, and material—to say nothing of his close proximity to Havre, Dieppe, and Boulogne—to establish a line of defence before Rouen that might have altered the face of matters most effectually. He has done nothing but abandon every position which, with immense labour, his troops had constructed between Ileauville and Gaillefontaine, where every village might have been made a fortress—all the more easily because his army does not consist entirely of Mobiles, but includes several line regiments, and the 5th Hussars, with thirty-five guns. Riding through the suburb of Rouen, on the north-east side, among the luxurious villas and summer residences of the rich citizens, we arrived at the head of the road from which the traveller gets the first glimpse of the old town. Rouen lies in a basin, surrounded on all sides by high hills. Through it flows the Seine, now unusually full.

On the 5th a message from the Mayor brought the German troops into the town—some of the population being riotous—and the general rode to the Place de l'Hotel de Ville, and, standing beside the statue of Napoleon I, who seemed, hat in hand, to receive him, he saw the 16th Division, with bands playing and colours flying, march past. In the operations which led to this result, the Army of the North has had eleven killed and fifty wounded, without the loss of a single officer. On the 6th the Intendant of the 8th Army Corps had an interview with M. Nion, the representative of the Mayor, who with the fright of the 5th and the multitudinous requisitions on all sides, had suddenly collapsed.

M. Nion is one of those dried-up, withered specimens of humanity, in whom, at first expecting nothing, you on further acquaintance often find a great deal. The mission of the Intendant was to say, that at ten next morning all the horses in Rouen must be paraded in the square of the Hotel de Ville; furthermore, that 40,000 pairs of boots must be got ready within six days, according to a pattern which would be supplied. "Ah! mais, Monsieur, c'est impossible," cried the unfortunate man. Next, His Excellency the General would be obliged by 20,000 pairs of socks being supplied within three days. "Monsieur, je vous assure, ce n'est pas possible," was the answer. "Pardon!" continued the immovable Intendant; "after this I shall only trouble you for 2,000 flannel shirts, 10,000 blankets, and 10,000 (?) good cigars." At the last demand M. Nion, who had been carefully noting the various items, threw down his pen in despair, pulled off his glasses, glanced at the ceiling, stretched his legs to their full extent under the table, and groaned once more, "Monsieur, c'est impossible." "I am very sorry to hear it, sir," answers the imperturbable Intendant, "for in that case His Excellency will impose upon the city a fine of three times the value of these articles." The Intendant bows; M. Nion also bows, shrugs his shoulders, and says, "Je ferai ce que je puis." And so the matter ended; nor have I the least doubt that everything required will be ready to the moment. The streets of Rouen are covered with snow. Winter has come upon us suddenly and severely, and I am thankful that we are in good winter quarters. The shops have taken down their shutters, and Rouen commences once more to breathe.

The Germans have again occupied Dieppe, but they have retired from before Havre, and do not appear to threaten Cherbourg.

#### THE INVESTMENT OF PARIS.

A correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph* sends the following in the shape of a telegram from Frankfort, dated Dec. 19:—"You may rely on my statement when I tell you that some recent reports from Versailles about the coming bombardment of Paris are erroneous. There can be no bombardment at present. It would take a month to render it possible. The German chiefs have believed so strongly in 'short commons' and their effects, that nothing is ready save the batteries. The guns already brought up do not exceed in number 500, and most of them are only 24-pounders, which would be useless against such forts as Mont Valérien. If the besiegers laid siege in detail to all the forts, such small ordnance might prove effective, as it did at Strasburg; but, for a bombardment, they must have guns equal in calibre to those mounted in the French forts, or the batteries would be knocked to pieces half-an-hour after they opened fire. The forts have fronts armed with twenty to twenty-four guns, mostly 70-pounders, of much greater range than the Krupp 24 pounders; and, with the exception of Mont Valérien, each fort is covered by the fire of two others, so that batteries opening on any one fort would be exposed to a concentrated fire from sixty or seventy guns. It is generally felt that the throwing of a few shells at long range into Paris would be absolutely useless—the fact being also intelligible that the two monster

guns lately mounted on Valérien can reach Versailles. The Prefecture, the residence of the King, is under fire from the advanced works at that fort; and shells from the main work have fallen near the Marly Aqueduct, a distance of more than four miles. The French have lately constructed works a mile nearer to the German lines, and moved forward the same guns; the new works are only four miles and a quarter from the Prefecture, the Château, the Hôtel des Reservoirs, and the very centre of Versailles; and the range of the guns is known to be four miles and a half. From the ocular demonstration of a trustworthy informant, I am able to assure you that, four or five days since, the guns intended for the bombardment were still in the great artillery park at Villacoublay, except a comparative few which had been removed to be mounted on the German works of defence against possible sorties."

Dr. Russell, writing from Versailles on the 14th, says:—"The councils of the German chiefs seem to have been undecided as to the bombardment. At an early period of the investment I have no doubt the measure was in contemplation. Siege-trains were formed, the heavy guns from Strasburg hurried up and parks established, gabions and fascines stored, and magazines formed. Then two sorts of fire were opened against the project—one from the forts of Paris, developing immense artillery power and rendering the establishment of a superiority of fire at least questionable, the other from moral batteries, which caused various influential persons to view the proposed bombardment with disfavour. I think there are evidences of a change in favour of a more actively aggressive policy. It may be the influence of popular feeling which is growing impatient. It may be the desire to show the members of the Reichstag that preparations are in hand to quicken the appreciation of hunger on the part of the city. The guns which have been parked will, I think, be put in position in a short time. They will, at all events, contribute greatly to strengthen the Prussian front, and bring a powerful fire on any outfall from Paris. Through a rift in a cloud of rain I see the French busily engaged on a new battery about 800 or 1,000 yards in front of the entrenched redoubts below Valérien. They will soon be in a position to shell Versailles and to command the roads near at hand if they go on at their present rate of active defence."

The besieged correspondent of the *Food Journal*, writing on the 15th inst., though disheartened on other points, is easy about flour, and acknowledges 4,300 milch cows, while there seems to be evidence that at least 30,000 horses are alive, besides those needed for the Artillery. The stories about eating rats, dogs, and cats are half jocular, half the result of efforts made by men with plenty of bread to obtain some animal food.

The danger of an outbreak of scurvy within the walls of Paris had been foreseen by the besieged, and M. Decaisne, Professor of Agriculture at the Museum, laid before the Institute an ingenious method for combating the evil. His scheme seems, from the brief description of it given of it in *Nature*, to be nothing else than a very rapid production of vegetables by artificial means, so that stem, leaves, and root shall all be equally tender and equally available for food. Pieces of waste land close to the walls have been richly manured and appropriated to this novel kind of gardening, and vegetables thus raised must be now on sale in Paris.

#### THE CONDITION OF PARIS.

The Versailles correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph* gives an encouraging account of the resources of Paris in food and means of defence. His information is obtained from two Englishmen—Major-General Claremont, and Captain Hore, R.N., attachés to the English Embassy in Paris, who left that city about the 11th of December. "The statements they have been good enough to make to me," says his correspondent, "with regard to the condition of the resources in food, material of war, and troops, still at the disposal of General Trochu for the prolongation of the defence, are such as to dissipate, authoritatively and completely, the belief, entertained until the beginning of this month by the leaders of the German armies, that Paris, imminently threatened by famine, and upon the brink of exhaustion, could not fail to surrender before Christmas." He gives the following summary of the information he has received from various quarters up to the present time:—"In the first place, while fresh beef has disappeared from the list of eatables obtainable under the Government ration-system, it can be consumed, though at a price somewhat higher than that asked two months ago, at the majority of the Parisian restaurants, large and small. At Voisin's, for instance, you can command an excellent beefsteak, filet or entrecôte, for three francs and a half—not horse, but good, honest ox. Ham, which had run up to the fancy price of thirty francs per pound, has now fallen to fourteen; and there is plenty of it at that price. Three days ago, breakfasting by accident at a small dining-room in the Place Gaillon, an acquaintance of mine had an excellent dish of veal cutlets, with tomato sauce, fruit, Cheshire cheese, and a bottle of capital wine, for a little less than seven francs—a price that shows scarcely any advance upon the normal tariff of Paris restaurants. The same gentleman, who has made no use whatsoever of his ration card, says he has lived excellently well throughout the period of investment, and has not once tasted horse: nor has his living, during the two months, cost him 5l. more than it would have cost him before the war. He tells me that the dog, cat, and rat diet, of which so much has been boasted and written by a few 'eccentrics,' has been nothing more than an 'affaire de fantaisie'—that men at the clubs or cafés

have made bets that they would dine off such 'small deer,' and the artificial demand thus created has elicited a supply, very limited in its quantity, and, indeed, chiefly confined to a humourous *baucherie d'extras* in the Rue Blanche, where household pets, both canine and feline, and their natural victims, domestic rats, are laid out on china dishes—skinned, neatly trussed, and pleasantly garnished with parsley—for the inspection of the public, as the latest 'articles de Paris.' As for their having passed into the daily menu of even the lowest classes nothing of the kind has taken place. A few plump dogs, some 'pretty pussies,' and some scores of adult rats, are sacrificed from day to day to the gastronomical whims of gentlemen who think it capital fun to eat carrion by way of a change, and consider that sort of meal peculiarly appropriate to a state of siege, but that is all. As for the stock of horses, it is enormous. Not one of the 13,000 omnibus horses, nor of the 24,000 cabs and carriage horses, has yet been requisitioned by the Provisioning Committee; besides these, about 25,000 more are engaged in the ordinary traffic of the city, in drawing ambulances trains, and in sundry other draught work; the horse markets—from which, at a tariff with which you are already acquainted, are taken the animals required for the daily rations—are still pretty full; and there are 100 field batteries fully horsed, several cavalry regiments, and an unknown number of officers and orderlies' horses, all of which, at a push, might be converted into food. I feel sure that I am not over the mark in estimating the gross number of horses at 100,000; and there is a fodder in abundance for all, showing no symptoms of giving out for a long time to come. At the Cantines Municipales, far six sous or thirty centimes (3d.) you can obtain a quart of strong soup, with a tidy lump of horsemeat swimming in it, which you may consume 'on the premises,' or take away with you, as you choose. The rations, issued three times a week, are varied judiciously, as follows: one day salt meat, another day fresh meat, and the third salt fish, cod or herring à volonté. The ration cards, made out till the 1st of February, are provided with coupons, against which you may obtain your fifty grammes of rice, potatoes, or cheese, as well as your meat, &c. All these edibles, of which the price is ruled by Government, are a trifle cheaper than they were when their prices were fixed by the retail vendors. For the indigent there are numerous *Bureaux de Bienfaisance*, and by application to them any very poor person can obtain *bons*, or *vouchers*, upon presenting which at the cantines or shops of their arrondissements they will receive rations. Six thousand cows, which will not be slaughtered except in great emergency, are kept to supply milk for children, invalids, &c. Butter, of course, is exceedingly scarce and dear—a sovereign per pound. Eggs, too, are wildly expensive—one shilling and three-pence a piece; so that omelettes are luxuries only indulged in by reckless capitalists; but the necessities of life are plentiful, and by no means costly. Coals have risen to 90 francs per ton, and wood to from 65 to 70; but wine is cheap, and there is enough of it to last a year; whilst the provision of flour—which I hear that Paris owes chiefly to Clement Duvernois—is so large, that the Government itself does not exactly know how much it possesses. The Army of Defence is composed of 520,000 men, of whom about 300,000 are commanded by General Clement Thomas, and the remainder by Generals Ducrot and Vinoy respectively. From each battalion 500 men are chosen, the unmarried members, they are formed into regiments of three battalions and sent forward to join the ranks of the Second Army in front. By this process there will be in a few days 200,000 men fully armed and equipped between the city and the besiegers' lines. The victualling of these armies is good, but the medical arrangements are deplorably insufficient and have already occasioned much suffering and loss of life."

#### M. GUIZOT ON THE SITUATION.

M. Guizot has lately addressed to the members of the Government of National Defence a letter, in which he argues that a Constituent Assembly should be elected at any price, and exhorts the Government not to allow any personal considerations to obscure their judgments. Having divided Republicans into three classes—Political Republicans, Fanatical Republicans, and Republican Dreamers—the writer goes on:—

An established Government, unless it overthrows itself, which in our days is the commonest way, is never overthrown by any but its enemies and its declared rivals. I pass in review the actual rivals of the Republic. I see only one which may be formidable to it. I will not say a word of the Second Empire and of Bonapartism. It is reported that its adherents are agitating in other countries, and are seeking among foreign Powers chances of a return. I do not wish to speak of the conquered, especially of those conquered by their faults. I respect misfortune, even when deserved; but one may, without offending against truth or propriety, say to France in respect of every attempt at an Imperial insurrection, "The experience is passed through; you know what to adhere to; you will find in it neither wisdom, nor the services of a strong power, nor the benefits of liberty." The Legitimists have two considerable and respectable sources of strength—their principle itself, and their fidelity to their principle; but these to-day are forces only for opposition and resistance, not for action. The Legitimists can insure an established Government; they cannot by themselves establish their own Government. The times for conspiracies and risings is past for them. In future they can effect nothing but by uniting themselves to the national sentiment and movement, whether the question be of the internal or external affairs of the country. Monarchs and Conservat.ves, they are held to be at the same time

Liberals and patriots; that is, ready to take their part and their places in the cause of new France, the cause of establishing a free Government; for they are the natural allies of order in the bosom of liberty. Guided by an admirable instinct, M. Berryer excelled in the art of thus serving his party, and by keeping it up by giving to it a new form. It is thus M.M. de Charette and Cathelineau serve the Republic to-day, preserving the uniform under which they served the Papacy. The House of Bourbon might have been able, by rallying all together under the national flag, to take to itself a newer and stronger position, and rejuvenate, instead of mutilating itself. It has not been able to do it. The Count de Chambord remains with dignity a monarchical claimant, but a claimant isolated and inert, pledged to wait without doing anything and without hoping much. The Princes of the House of Orleans are Princes, but not Pretenders. They have said and proved this themselves during and since 1848. Neither at the moment of their fall, nor under the Republic, nor under the Second Empire, have they presented themselves to France as heirs of the throne. I do not judge—I do not discuss their attitude; I only recall it. Always ready to serve France, they never claim any title to govern it. They have done more—they have asked from the Republic leave to serve it; and, as they are essentially men of honour, if the Republic had asked of them the oath of fidelity, and if they had taken it, they would have kept it. Whatever they do, they remain—and they will remain—princes; they will never be usurpers. As to what are called after their name, Orleanists, it is a mistake to term them a party. The Government of Louis Philippe has left faithful friends, and in the country good memories, which have already become more general and more clear, and which will become daily more so. It has not formed, it has not left, a party. This name cannot be given to that mass of men of order and of sense, essentially Conservative and quietly Liberal, who demand only of the Government the maintenance of the laws within, peace without, and the giving to the different national interests, as they develop themselves, and in proportion to their rights, the concessions they demand. That is not a party; it is that vast population, laborious, happy, not discontented with its lot, that has been often called the *juste milieu*, and that holds so much room in the life of France, which it serves so efficaciously both as ballast and as a source of progress, a population almost always too timid, too yielding—at one time, for those who, in the name of order, refuse to it the necessary liberty; at another for those who, in the name of these liberties, compromise its laborious repose.

Having thus striven to show that the Republic has nothing to fear from its opponents, M. Guizot proceeds to point out the dangers which it has to fear from its adherents:—

To inspire France with hope and confidence, the Republicans, who desire to govern it, have two conditions to fulfil—one is, to separate themselves from their perfidious allies, the fanatical Revolutionary Republicans and the Socialist Republican Dreamers; the other, to live constantly in presence and under the influence of France itself, of its representatives freely elected, and really sharing in the work of the Government. The writer concludes by citing the example of America during the War of Independence, and points out that, although Congress caused her many embarrassments, Washington yet considered it advisable that this body should be summoned together. Should not the French Government in like manner call together an assembly, the more so as such a body is unlikely to give it the same embarrassment which Washington had to encounter from Congress?

#### THE LUXEMBOURG DIFFICULTY.

According to the *Observer*, the answer of the English Government to the circular of Count Bismarck on the Luxembourg question was not finally settled until the Cabinet Council on Saturday. It was despatched the same night. The *Observer* says that the note, whilst admitting that any gross breach of neutrality by Luxembourg would justify Prussia in considering herself released from the obligation to respect the neutrality of the Duchy during the war, contends that such breach would not absolve her from her permanent obligations towards the other Powers. The note, which is very conciliatory in tone, expresses the hope that the conclusion of an amicable arrangement will be facilitated by Prussia abstaining from any active steps in enforcement of the theory laid down in the circular of Count Bismarck. There is a general opinion that Prussia will so abstain, and that the difficulty will be amicably arranged. The inhabitants of the Duchy are signing a voluntary plebiscite, and the result is said to be almost unanimous in favour of the independence of the Duchy. The answer of Luxembourg was sent on Saturday. All the charges made by the Prussian Government are denied.

It is reported from Berlin that Germany will probably accept arbitration in the Luxembourg question.

A semi-official paper of Berlin publishes the concluding paragraph of Count Bismarck's circular repudiating the Luxembourg treaty. It states that the King's Government no longer considers itself bound in its military operations by considerations connected with the neutrality of Luxembourg, and reserves to itself the right of prosecuting its claims against the Grand Duchy for the damage inflicted upon it by the non-observance of neutrality.

A Berlin telegram in the *Post* says that satisfactory assurances have been despatched by the Prussian Government to England. Prussia does not, it is said, intend to violate the treaty of 1867, still less to annex Luxembourg. Her recent step had reference only to the exigencies of the present war, and to the flagrant overstepping of neutral privileges by the Grand Ducal Government.

#### NOTES AND INCIDENTS.

Bitsche is the only remaining fortress in German Lorraine which is now in French hands. Its natural position is so strong that it is unlikely to yield except to famine, and there has for some time

been a tacit understanding on both sides to suspend firing, and thus avoid needless bloodshed.

General Ducrot is said to have, in the late sorties, led two or three charges, in one closing hand-to-hand with the enemy, and breaking his sword in a Prussian officer's body.

Fifty Frenchmen, seized as hostages for the German merchant captains, arrived at Frankfort on the 11th, and on the following day were sent on to Bremen. They are composed of counts, marquises, barons, and wealthy commoners from the district of Dijon.

Several attempts at assassination have been made near Versailles.

In the recent fighting around Paris the Germans and the French suffered equally. The casualties in killed and wounded are now said to be 17,000 in the sorties alone.

A meeting was held at Liverpool on Friday, presided over by Mr. F. B. Cooke, at which a memorial to Mr. Gladstone was adopted, deprecating war with Russia, even if the Treaty of 1856 were violated.

Some of the German papers state that Count Bismarck is to be made a duke.

Thousands of French refugees from Normandy are seeking shelter in England. The coast towns of Kent are crowded with them, but there are said to be not many in London.

The statues of Napoleon III. in the different towns of France are being destroyed.

Some of the French papers give a flaming account of a heroine from Colmar, who is said to command a corps of free-shooters in the Vosges.

150,000 men who have been called to the standards by the recent levies in Germany are about to pass the Rhine, and will proceed partly to reinforce the army of General von Werder, and partly to fill up the gaps which have been caused in the besieging armies around Paris by the recent battles.

A Republican demonstration took place on Sunday afternoon in Trafalgar-square, to express sympathy with the French Republic, and to protest against its non-recognition by the English Government. "Citizen" Salomons presided, and among the speakers were M. de Fonvielle and Mr. Bradlaugh, latter of whom denounced the prostitution of English diplomacy through the influence of Court marriages, and moved the following resolution:—"That since the British Government has not represented the nation by officially recognising the French Republic, we, the people of London, recognise the *de facto* Government of the Republic as the only legitimate Government of France, and we appeal to our fellow-countrymen in Great Britain and Ireland to adopt a similar course, so as to disavow the acts of our rulers, and to avoid misrepresentation." This and other resolutions were unanimously adopted, and after the meeting broke up a number of persons marched in procession with banners flying and bands playing the "Marseillaise," which the processionists sang, along Pall-mall, up St. James's-street, and along Piccadilly to the French Embassy at Albert-gate, in order to place the resolutions adopted at the meeting in the hands of the chargé d'affaires. On arriving at the embassy, however, it was found that no higher authority than the porter was at the moment in residence, and the deputation accordingly had to turn back.

The applications for the 3,000,000l. of the North German Loan offered on this side amounted at the closing of the subscription on Friday to three times that total. Telegrams from Berlin describe a similar result with regard to the 4,500,000 offered in that city.

It is said that Count Bismarck insists upon Austria giving up to Prussia the paraphernalia formerly used in the coronation of German Emperors, and which remains in Austria's possession.

The King of Prussia, says a Versailles letter in the *North German Gazette*, continues to receive in his usual manner the reports of the various departments of the Government. As a rule, he only leaves the Prefecture about noon for an hour for a short excursion. The neighbouring eminences of the district of Versailles, which afford an extensive view of Paris, are generally visited. Dinner comes off about five p.m. From six to eight His Majesty is in his study; at eight there is the *soirée*, to which a large number of officers always receive invitations.

The number of unwounded French prisoners in Germany up to the fall of Thionville amounted to 10,067 officers, and 303,842 men.

A scarcity of coal prevails in Germany, and is seriously on the increase. It arises from the want of labour in the mines caused by the war levies. The expediency of employing some of the French prisoners as colliers, provided they possess the strength, skill, and inclination, is being discussed.

Alsace is said to have supplied more Mobiles and Francs-tireurs than any other province of France.

Lord Vernon, President of the Royal Agricultural Society on Monday presided over a public meeting at the Salisbury Hotel, at which it was resolved to form a committee for the collection of subscriptions, in corn and other seeds, to be supplied gratis to the suffering peasant farmers of France. The speakers, among whom were Mr. C. Wren Hoskyns, M.P., Captain Goodenough, and Mr. J. R. Robinson, laid especial emphasis upon the importance of enabling the distressed French farmers to sow their land, otherwise a famine in the devastated districts would be inevitable next year. Subscriptions to the amount of 1,000l. were announced before the meeting broke up.

The *Salut Public* of Lyons relates a daringfeat performed a few days since by forty men of a free company from the Doubs commanded by Captain Huot. Having learnt that a body of 120 French

prisoners, who had formed part of Garibaldi's force, and had been captured at Dijon, were being sent off to Germany, Captain Huot suddenly fell upon the Prussian escort, numbering seventy men, and succeeded in putting them to flight and rescuing the prisoners.

It is believed that there is no intention on the part of Count Bismarck to insist upon the annexation of Mulhouse to Germany, and that his line will be drawn south of Schlestadt, possibly rounding off the defensive frontier with the unfortunate little fortress of Neu Breisach, which has just been literally pounded to pieces. This, if enlarged and strengthened, would cover Freiburg and the passes of the Black Forest.

At Metz, on the night of the 11th, a Prussian sentry was shot. Several persons have been arrested on suspicion, and if the assassin is not discovered the city will be fined 2,000l. Several chests of concealed chassepots and cartridges have been found in private houses.

At Besançon a subscription list has been opened for the presentation of a sword of honour to Garibaldi. The hilt is a figure of the Republic in the shape of a woman in vigorous youth trampling on a crown and sceptre.

A letter from Macon of the 13th inst. states that Aurelles des Paladienes had passed through that town on his way to Belley, in the department of Ain, his family residence.

Reports of renewed negotiations for an armistice are not confirmed.

The Duc de Gramont has arrived at St. Petersburg, where he intends to remain for the present.

#### EXTRACTS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

**THE BISHOP OF ORLEANS.**—A letter from Orleans says that "Bishop Dupanloup is under arrest. Two sentinels are posted at his door, as if he had command of an Army Corps, but he is in reality confined to his house, and no one is allowed egress or ingress excepting under permission. It is said that this eminent ecclesiastic allowed his patriotism to outrun his discretion, and availed himself of the intimate relations which he maintained with the Bavarians to give assistance and information to their enemies at the moment of their retreat and defeat at Coulmiers which materially assisted the latter. Under any circumstances, his encyclical letter, in which he compares the Germans to the hordes of barbarians led by Attila, was not likely to improve his position with them when they returned to take temporary charge of his diocese."

**A MERRITIOUS DEED.**—The roads will now be in a very bad condition indeed—but anything must be better than the fierce wind and the excessively low temperature with it, which chilled the marrow in one's bones. It was on one of these hard days that Mr. Young, who was left at St. Germain in charge of the last wagons of the English Ambulance, did a bit of good service which is worth recording. Baron Zensen, one of the King's Chamberlains who is engaged in giving aid to the sick and wounded, informed Mr. Young, on the 10th of December, that a Prussian was lying shot out in the cold at one of the advanced posts near Bezons. That gentleman, who is a commissary of stores, and was engaged in the Abyssinian expedition, at once got out a wagon and started with some of his men for the place indicated, followed by Baron Zensen, in his carriage. They crossed the pontoon bridge at Le Pecq and took the road to Châton, through Vesinet, halting at the château occupied by the Prussian commandant to obtain a safe-conduct along the bank of the Seine to Carrières St. Denis, which was granted after some delay. An escort of ten soldiers was provided to reply to any French skirmishers who might seek to annoy the little *cortège* from the other side of the river. They were so close that they could distinctly hear the French talking, but a dense fog concealed them from view, and they arrived at the bridge of Bezons without interruption. Here the Prussian picket told Baron Zensen that the wounded man must be on one of the islands of the Seine, crossed to the other bank by the Havre railway-bridge, which they had already left on their way. They retraced their steps to the railway-bridge, an arch of which was closed, to serve as a stable to the horses of a cavalry picket, and here Mr. Young and Baron Zensen held a council, as it became evident that it would be necessary to venture in a boat to the island where the wounded man was supposed to be, and to run the gauntlet of the French sharpshooters. Baron Zensen did not think he would be justified in exposing his escort to the risk, and Mr. Young volunteered to go in search of the wounded German, who must have been lying out for twenty hours without aid or food, in great agony from his wound and from the weather. He was accompanied by one of the English attendants on the ambulance, whose name I do not know, and by a Prussian, and, finding a boat, they pushed across the stream for the island. The fog still continued, and it was well it did, for the voices of the French patrols on the other bank were very audible, and it would have been impossible to venture on the service in clear day. They landed on the island, and there, sure enough, under an arch of the bridge of the railway they found the man still alive, shot through the thigh by a Chassepot bullet, which had inflicted such a wound that amputation has since been necessary. They carried him to the boat, ferried him over, gave him food and stimulants from the wagon provided by Mr. Young, in which he was deposited on a mattress and carefully driven back, but night had set in and it was one o'clock in the morning before they reached St. Germain. Here Mr. Young and his aid carried the soldier on a stretcher up to the Prussian hospital in the Château, and retired, I hope, to a well-earned repose with the consciousness of having done a good day's work,

thus recorded for the approbation of their countrymen.—*Dr. Russell, in the Times.*

**STRANGE SCENE IN ORLEANS CATHEDRAL.**—The *Times* correspondent at Orleans writes:—"The distraction and confusion of the first few hours in Orleans it is difficult to depict: the rattle of the artillery trains, the roll of drums, the jingle of the trotting cavalry, the shouts of officers, the tramp of battalions, the hopeless 'jams' of the baggage-trains, the squads of prisoners arriving from different directions, the cowering stray civilians crushed by this din of war, the weeping women, all combined to form a picture full of intense and striking contrast. During the whole of yesterday (Dec. 5) the streets presented this aspect. To-day there is a slight change, the shops are slowly beginning to take down their shutters, in obedience to an order they have received to that effect, and are consequently invaded by the soldiery, who have many necessities of clothing with which to supply themselves. To judge from the high prices and the enormous custom, the vendors of the articles of attire most in demand must be doing a thriving business. In a few hours every article of flannel underclothing in the town was purchased; gloves are no longer to be had; maps of this and the adjoining departments are long since exhausted; and officers and men with bundles under their arms are to be met in every direction. Stationers' and haberdashers' shops are decidedly the most popular; the butchers', bakers', and tobacconists' at once fell under martial law, and their contents were appropriated by the Intendance, according to the usual regulations. This afternoon (December 6) a few more of the inhabitants appear in the streets, but they all look as if they were going to a funeral, and the upper windows of the houses are all shut. The most remarkable scene, however, is that which the interior of this grand old cathedral presents. I wonder if Bishop Dupanloup has visited it since it has been turned into a prison. As many thousand men as could possibly be crammed into it passed the night there, and when I visited it this morning several hundreds were still there. Inside the rails of the façade the soldiers had made a camping ground, and it was a mass of filth, in the midst of which, grouped round fires, were bodies of prisoners. On entering, the smoke from these fires made inside was so dense that I could scarcely see a dozen yards. All the chairs had been appropriated either to make fires with or to sit round them, and the din of voices, the crackle of burning wood, the blinding smoke, the songs of the light-hearted Zouave, and loud voices of the Germans, all intermingled, produced a strange effect. But when in the midst of this unholy din the solemn strains of the organ pealed through the church, and the bright rays of the setting sun streaming through the gorgeous windows lit up the wild, uncouth groups that were smoking and singing and cooking round their fires, and for a moment shot rays across the aisle which seemed to penetrate the dense smoke and flood it with a divine light, sacrilege seemed to have attained its climax. But it had not quite done so. Breaking short off from the solemn march which had for a second arrested the attention of even the reckless spirits who now congregated here, the organ suddenly burst into an attempt at a jig—it seemed to have gone mad—under the impression of a musical Zouave. It launched forth into the wildest strains. Hanging eagerly over the musician, who was really an accomplished artist, and made the organ perform wonderful comical feats, was a delighted troop of Turcos jabbering to each other in Arabic, and evidently highly pleased with the performance. Stimulated by their applause the Zouave made frantic efforts; the crowd, which had rapidly collected, called loudly to invisible companions behind the organ for more wind, and the fun was waxing fast and furious, when, looking round, I saw a priest in tears. Standing near him were two ladies in black giving bread to the hungry crowd; the steps to the altar had been so desecrated that it was impossible to approach it; and a few lively spirits having thrown some cartridges into the fire, the smoke produced became so great that we were all obliged to rush to the doors to get a whiff of fresh air, and I was not sorry to be driven from a scene which fascinated while it revolted, and which was another of the absurd reductions to which devout men who worship at once the God of Love and the God of Battles are driven."

**NAPOLÉON'S VIEW OF THE FUTURE.**—The Emperor Napoleon (we are told by a correspondent of the *Telegraph*) spoke freely the other day during a walk on the chances of his restoration. "It would be well," he said, "if it were publicly understood that I never intend to remount the throne on the strength of a military *pronunciamiento*—by the aid of soldiery, just as little as by that of Prussia. I am the sole Sovereign who governs, next to the grace of God, by the will of the people; and I shall never be unfaithful to the origin of my authority. The whole people, which has four times approved of my election, must recall me by its deliberate votes, else I shall never return to France. The army possesses no more right to place me on the throne than had the lawyers and loafers to push me from it. The French people, whose Sovereign I am, has the sole decision."

**THE PRICE OF DELICACIES IN PARIS.**—Little tins of *foies gras*, about the size of an old-fashioned snuff-box, are marked from four to eight francs, and the smallest *pâté* is nearly worth the same money. A truffled turkey at the present moment would certainly be sold for 5*l.* at least. A fine one, filled with the truffles, is worth about forty francs at ordinary times. To give an idea of the prices of pork butcher's delicacies, I may mention that Lyons sausage is worth 10*s.* a pound, or three times the usual price. To meet this state of things a requisition has been issued, and declaration required to be made

of all kinds of salt pork, ham, &c., and preparations of charcuterie of all kinds whatsoever; the prices to be fixed by two arbitrators. I doubt if this act has been put in force, for the quantity has been so small as not to afford a day's consumption for the mass, while the withdrawal of all delicacies from the market would cause great offence to the small class to which they have become almost necessities; for, if the Government should take these preparations in hand, it must ration them out as it does butcher's meat and other food, and nobody would, in fact, be any better if it were so. The working classes in Paris eat little else than soup, bread, and wine at any time, and I question whether many of them do not sell or barter the bits of meat they get to their richer neighbours.—*Correspondent of Food Journal.*

**A BATTLE SCENE NEAR ORLEANS.**—The *Daily News* correspondent with the Army of the Grand Duke of Mecklenburg gives an account of the fighting near Orleans on the 2nd instant, of which he was an eye-witness. The battle, which ranged over the vast plain to the north and north-west of the city to the distance of more than twenty-five miles, commenced against the Bavarians, who were four times beaten back, and at last were unable to resist any longer, and their place had to be supplied with the 75th and 78th Hanseatic Regiments of the 17th Division, who entered the fight at about eleven o'clock. The battle gradually extended towards the east, and at two o'clock the whole line, from beyond Arthenay to the Bavarian lines, was one continuous storm of shot and shell. The French stood their ground bravely. The Germans, weary and exhausted by long marches, made desperate efforts to beat back the French, who were largely superior in numbers, and had cannons, mitrailleuses, and chassepots. Besides, the whole Seventeenth Division was entirely new to serious engagements. Quickly all the houses in the line of battle, which were of very inflammable materials, were in flames from the bursting shells; and as night approached, on one side the moon shone brightly, and on the other, the whole horizon was illuminated by the glare of burning houses and villages. The ground was very well adapted for cavalry charges, and opposite Arthenay the Fourth Cavalry Division was very active. At one time along the road I was met by a herd of over a hundred riderless horses, which galloped along in great terror, most of them being very badly wounded, and covered with blood. A whole cavalry regiment had been met by a deadly mitrailleuse fire. The battle was one of those very bloody ones of which the three before Metz in August are the most striking examples, and like those, it is apparently without any result. Towards evening it was everywhere loudly asked, "Where is Prince Frederick Charles? Why does he leave us alone in this way?" Everywhere the number of dead and wounded was very great; nowhere appeared any decisive advantage on one side or another. If Prince Frederick Charles sends reinforcements, the success of the Germans is certain. But the Bavarians are *hors de combat*. When I left the field of battle at eleven o'clock at night, the women and children and old men were wandering about in the intense cold in search of shelter, having been driven out of their villages by the flames. The troops were mostly in bivouacs without covering, and expecting a renewal of the combat. The moon was shining brightly, lighting up the whole plain, except where its light was obscured by the black smoke from the burning villages. The sanitary arrangements are excellent. Every house, every shed that could be rescued from the flames was promptly applied for the use of the wounded, and during the whole night the medical corps was busy in carrying off the wounded from the field. There were physicians in abundance, and all necessary materials for their prompt treatment.

**THE FRENCH ARMY OF THE WEST.**—A correspondent of the *Daily News*, writing from Le Mans, says he found the town full of miserable-looking Mobiles; most of them had torn uniforms, and many had boots out at the toes; all were more or less blue in the face, and seemed as if they could not put their hands deep enough into their pockets. The few regulars—Line, Chasseurs-à-pied, and cavalry—met with seemed far more at their ease. Hardly one of the Mobiles was possessed of a greatcoat; but to repair this deficiency many had fastened, by means of a bit of string, their rugs over their shoulders; but the gentlemen of the standing army were all enveloped in long greatcoats and Inverness capes, with their hands well protected by stout leather gloves. The officers of these raw troops, it is true, were all got up in the first style, and, with eyeglasses adjusted, were staring at every pretty woman they met.

**DIFFICULTY OF BREAKING OUT OF PARIS.**—The villages, villas, and country-houses which are a part of Paris outside the walls have not only given shelter to the Germans, and often stores of wine and food, but have been invaluable places of defence. There is a girdle of barricades round the city, and every wall is loopholed, so that an assailing force once out of artillery cover has really to carry entrenched positions one after the other, each stronger as it opens heavier fire in proportion to the increased strength of the defenders. Artillery cannot move easily over the open at this time of year, and columns must deploy. The Seine and the Marne, much as they conduce to the defence of Paris, are great obstacles to the ready evolution of large sorties, because the bridges are destroyed, and pontoons can only be laid where the fire of the forts covers the pontoons. The system of signals in use in the German Armies is quite sufficient for all purposes of warning. Posts are established near the outlying pickets, where a few poles, on which to run up flags by day and to burn beacons at night, are erected to notify a coming attack. The electric wires connect every command,

and run to head-quarters. Every house with a good view is turned into an "Observatorium," from which the French are watched through powerful glasses, and are obliged to undergo strict scrutiny, every day being divided into periods for observation and reports thereupon.—*Letter in the Times.*

#### THE EDUCATION ACT.

##### THE LONDON SCHOOL BOARD.

On Thursday afternoon the Metropolitan School Board, elected under the Education Act, held its first meeting, and the occasion was one of much interest. By the spontaneous courtesy of the Lord Mayor and Corporation the Council Chamber in the Guildhall, with suitable offices, has been placed at the disposal of the board for an unlimited time, until it shall acquire for itself "a local habitation." A considerable crowd was assembled to see the members pass, many of whom, especially Miss Garrett and Miss Davies, were loudly cheered. The public were admitted. The whole of the members, forty-nine in number, were in attendance, except Mr. John Macgregor, who had to fulfil a long-standing engagement to lecture on behalf of the Seamen's Home at Newport. The *Recorder* of London (Mr. Russell Gurney) was present on the occasion as Returning Officer and Assessor; as were also the Town Clerk of London (Mr. Woodthorpe) and Mr. Kekewich, from the Educational Department of the Privy Council.

Mr. Alderman Cotton occupied the chair, *pro tem.*, though it had been expected that Miss Garrett, as the highest on the poll, would have taken that position. After a brief address from the Chairman,

Professor Huxley suggested that, before they proceeded to the election of a chairman, they should address themselves to the question of salary, and he moved that no salary be allowed to the chairman. The members of the board should not come there as mere delegates, but with views of their own; and the actual work of the board should be distributed as fairly as possible among the members. (Hear, hear.) He hoped, so far as the administrative work was carried out in detail, to see that done by a secretary, who should be an able and competent man, and well paid. The motion was seconded by Mr. Lucraft.

The Rev. John Mee did not think at that, their first meeting, they ought to adopt such a sweeping resolution as would prevent them in future from paying their chairman should they think it desirable so to do. He, therefore, moved the insertion of words to the effect that "at present" it was not desirable to pay him, the object of that being, he said, that the board might be left perfectly free in the matter. The suggestion was adopted by the mover and seconder.

The *Recorder* reminded the board that they could not by any possibility vote a salary at present, according to the Act.

The Rev. J. A. Picton held that it would be unwise in them, by a hasty vote at their first meeting, to preclude themselves from paying their chairman before they saw how much of his time would be occupied by the office. He moved an amendment to the motion the addition of the words, "unless at some future time in the judgment of the board the time occupied in the discharge of his duties should require it."

Mr. Freeman said that the work of the board must be largely done by committees, and he hoped that each committee would have a responsible chairman, following in that respect the example of the Corporation of London. He should have seconded the amendment if it had limited the time to six months, at the end of which time they would have some data to go upon.

Mr. Morley, M.P., and Lord Sandon supported the motion, and eventually the amendment was withdrawn, the *Recorder* stating that if the original motion were passed it would require the assent of two-thirds of the Board to rescind it.

Miss Garrett said she was altogether in favour of the motion of Professor Huxley. She thought it would be the best course in the end; but if hereafter a decided case were made out for having a paid chairman—seeing that they would have it in their power to rescind the present resolution by two-thirds of their number—she did not think it would be difficult to persuade two-thirds of a reasonable and thoughtful assembly like that to adopt the principle of salary. (Hear, hear.)

Eventually Professor Huxley's motion was carried by thirty-two against fourteen votes. Mr. Torrens, M.P., voted with the majority; Lord Lawrence with the minority. Mr. Reed, M.P., did not vote.

A conversation then arose as to whether, in electing a chairman, the board should do so by open voting or by ballot. Eventually, it was decided, on a division, by thirty-three to nine, that the votes should be taken by ballot, and according to what is called the "exhaustive process."

Sir Thomas Tilson then proposed that Lord Lawrence be chairman of the board. This was seconded by Mr. Buxton. Mr. Gover moved, and Mr. Scrutton seconded, the nomination of Mr. Reed. Mr. Currie proposed, and Sir F. Lyett seconded, Mr. Torrens. The Rev. W. Rogers moved, and Mr. T. C. Clarke seconded, the nomination of Professor Huxley.

The votes were then taken by ballot, each member writing on a slip of paper the name of the candidate for whom he voted, and depositing it, folded up, in a glass urn before the chairman *pro tem.*

The result of the first voting stood thus:—

Lord Lawrence . . . . . 21 | Mr. Torrens . . . . . 9

Mr. Reed . . . . . 10 | Professor Huxley . . . . . 6

The name of the Professor being lowest on the poll, was in consequence eliminated from the list.

The second voting gave the subjoined result:—

Lord Lawrence ....	22	Mr. Reed .....	13
Mr. Torrens .....	11		

Thereupon Mr. Torrens retired; and Mr. REED rose and said:—"Recognising the strong desire on the part of the Board to have Lord Lawrence as their chairman, he would withdraw." This intimation was received with cries of "No," and the final test ballot was taken with this result:—

Lord Lawrence .... 29 | Mr. Reed .....

Sir THOMAS TILSON thereupon moved that Lord Lawrence be their chairman. The motion was seconded by Mr. CHARLES REED, M.P., and adopted.

Lord LAWRENCE was then formally conducted to the chair amid some cheering. Addressing the Board he said,—Ladies and Gentlemen,—I beg to thank you heartily for the very great honour you have conferred upon me this day, and I can only say that so far as my ability will admit I will do my best to make the School Board of London a success. (Cheers.) I am prepared to devote my time and my labour to the work without stint and ungrudgingly, and I have a full confidence that I shall receive that support from the members of the Board which will enable me to attain success. (Hear.) I trust that by God's help we shall be able to do the work in such a way as to afford an example to the whole kingdom, and to establish a sound and excellent system of education for the great mass of the people. I again thank you for the great honour you have done me. (Cheers.)

On the motion of the Rev. J. G. CROMWELL, Mr. Charles Reed, M.P., was elected vice-chairman; Mr. Cromwell remarking that he thought it most desirable at the outset of the board to give a pledge that there was a desire among the members that as little as possible of denominational distinctions should be allowed to take root. Lord Lawrence, he added, was a Churchman, and Mr. Reed a Nonconformist.

Mr. REED said it would be an honour to serve such a chairman, but a greater honour to serve the people of London in the great undertaking to which they had set themselves.

On the motion of Lord SANDON, a sub-committee, composed of the chairman and vice-chairman of the board, and one member representing each of the ten metropolitan divisions—viz., Mr. James Watson, Mr. Tabrum, Mr. M'Arthur, Mr. Green, Mr. W. H. Smith, M.P., the Rev. John Mee, the Rev. William Rogers, Mr. Kiell, Mr. M'Gregor, and Mr. Currie—was appointed to consider and recommend to the board what officers would be required for its immediate business, and to define their duties and fix their salaries.

A cordial vote of thanks was voted to the Lord Mayor and Corporation for their considerate courtesy in allowing the board to hold its meetings in the Council Chamber. The thanks of the meeting were also tendered with acclamation—first, to the Right Hon. the Recorder, as assessor, for his kindness in assisting the Board on that occasion; and next to Mr. Alderman Cotton for presiding as the chairman of the day.

The Board, at its rising, stood adjourned to Wednesday (this day).

On Thursday two delegations from Lambeth waited on Mr. Forster, in order to call attention to certain irregularities said to have taken place in the late election in that division for the London School Board. Dr. Kavanagh headed one delegation, consisting of Roman Catholics; and the others, who were Dissenters and working men, were headed by the Rev. G. M. Murphy. Mr. Forster, in reply, intimated that he could not reopen the question in the present instance, and if he had intended to have an inquiry into the subject it would have been manifestly improper to have received the delegation, which he only did on the ground that the validity of the election was not to be contested. The complaints had been less than he expected, and nothing had been shown to have occurred but for which the return might have been different. Many good suggestions had been made, which should be carefully considered.

Mr. Sandford, the Secretary to the Education Department, in replying to a letter from Mr. George Potter and others complaining of irregularities at the recent School Board election at Westminster, has officially confirmed the statement made verbally by Mr. Forster last week, that the Education Department has resolved not to undertake any inquiry into the validity of the late elections, but to refer all complaints to the Court of Queen's Bench.

The *Observer* understands that the London School Board will prepare a set of rules and regulations, which will be sent to the other School Boards, so that the opinions of the whole country may be obtained in respect to arrangements which have a general and not a merely local application. Although each board will have to adapt its measures to the exigencies of its district, it is highly desirable that there should be unity of action as far as it is practicable.

#### COUNTRY BOARDS.

LIVERPOOL.—Mr. Bushell was on Thursday elected chairman, and Mr. Sitt vice-chairman of the new board.

MANCHESTER.—Mr. Herbert Birley, Churchman, was elected chairman by eight to six votes against Mr. Oliver Heywood, banker. Mr. W. R. Callendar, Churchman, was elected vice-chairman. A motion by Dr. John Watts, that the compulsory clauses should be put in force, was negatived by an amendment of the Rev. Canon Toole, postponing the consideration of the question. This was carried by nine to six, but it was understood that four of the

supporters of the amendment were in favour of compulsory education, and would support it eventually.

BIRMINGHAM.—Mr. W. L. Sargent, one of the eight "Scriptural" candidates, but a Liberal in politics, was unanimously elected chairman; and Mr. S. S. Lloyd, another member of the same party, was afterwards appointed vice-chairman.

LEEDS.—Sir Andrew Fairbairn, a Churchman, was elected chairman. Mr. Jewitt, a Nonconformist, who was returned at the head of the poll, though not as the representative of any religious or political party, vice-chairman. The new board transacted no public business, but resolved to appoint a clerk, at a salary of £500. a year, and to meet monthly.

NOTTINGHAM.—Prebendary Morse was elected by seven to six as chairman, and Mr. Gripper (a Friend) as vice-chairman. The meetings are to be monthly.

BRADFORD.—Mr. M. W. Thomson, ex-M.P., was elected the chairman, and Mr. J. V. Godwin the vice-chairman.

SHEFFIELD.—Sir John Brown was appointed chairman, and Mr. Mark Firth (ex-Master Cutler) vice-chairman. It was decided to appoint a clerk, at a salary of £300. a year, who should devote the whole of his time to the duties of the office.

ROCHDALE.—Mr. Edmund Ashworth, J.P., was elected chairman; Mr. John Petrie, jun., vice-chairman; and the Town Clerk secretary, *pro tem.*

STOCKTON.—Mr. Newby was elected chairman, and Mr. J. Dodshun vice-chairman.

BRIGHTON.—The School Board for Brighton was elected on Wednesday. It comprises six members of the Church of England, three Congregationalists, one Presbyterian, one Wesleyan, one member of the Society of Friends, and one Roman Catholic. The poll was headed by a lady.

The Bristol Town Council have unanimously come to a resolution to apply for a school board for that city. The Church of England schools are 70, with 10,628 scholars, and accommodation is now being made for between two and three thousand more. The Nonconformists have 36 schools, with 6,326 scholars, and the Roman Catholics 7 schools, with 1,057 scholars. Taking one-sixth of the population, or 30,000, as the number for whom accommodation would have to be provided under the Act, there remain between 3,000 and 4,000 children for whom schools would have to be found.

Orders were last night issued by the Education Department of the Privy Council for the election of School Boards for the boroughs of Beaumaris, Bideford, Blackburn, Burnley, Canterbury, Carmarthen, Chard, Darlington, Dursley, Derby, Dudley, Halifax, Hartlepool, Kendal, Leicester, Northampton, Oldham, Portsmouth, Rochester, Rye, Shrewsbury, Sunderland, Tynemouth, Wrexham, and Yeovil.

#### RELEASE OF THE FENIAN CONVICTS.

The following letter has been sent by Mr. Gladstone to Sir William Carroll, late Lord Mayor of Dublin, whose name was the first of those attached to a very numerously signed petition presented to the Prime Minister by Mr. M'Carthy Downing, M.P.:—

Downing-street, Dec. 16, 1870.

Gentlemen,—I have to inform you that Her Majesty's Government have carefully considered the case of the convicts now undergoing their sentences for treason and treason-felony, and that they have recommended to the Crown the exercise towards them of the Royal clemency, so far as it is compatible with the assured maintenance of tranquillity and order in the country.

They will, therefore, be discharged, upon the condition of not remaining in, or returning to, the United Kingdom.

These prisoners were most justly condemned for participation, either secretly or by open violence, in a conspiracy which, if any degree successful, would have filled Ireland with misery and bloodshed; and the same principles of justice which dictated their sentences would amply sanction the prolongation of their imprisonment, if the public security demanded it.

It is this last question, therefore, which has formed the subject of careful examination by Her Majesty's Government, and they have been able to come to the conclusion, that under the existing circumstances of the country, the release of the prisoners, guarded by the condition which I have stated, will be perfectly compatible with the paramount interests of public safety, and, being so, will tend to strengthen the cause of peace and loyalty in Ireland.

There happily appears to be a concurrence of circumstances favourable to such an exercise of the Royal prerogative of mercy.

Ireland is at present remarkably prosperous, and generally free from turbulence or disorder. Its quiet condition shows a most marked improvement upon that which prevailed a year ago. Since that time Parliament has again proved, as it had done in the previous session, its readiness to confront the most difficult questions of Irish legislation with a view to sincere reforms and effectual remedies, while it has not failed to maintain the authority of the law by conferring special and necessary powers upon the Irish Government.

These things have swelled the numbers and strengthened the hands of that great body of men of all parties and creeds representing the property, intelligence, and religion of Ireland which is on the side of order and loyalty, while they have weakened the powers of disaffection and revolution.

The earnest desire of Her Majesty's Ministers is to act in all things so as to favour the advance of this healing process, and it is because they believe that the release of the convicts now suffering under sentences of imprisonment for treason and treason-felony will assist in this work that they have arrived at their present decision.

That decision, they are well aware, is in accordance with strong opinions and compassionate feelings very widely prevalent in Ireland, but happily not displaying themselves in any popular agitation or any turbulent

demands, such as would render compliance inconsistent with the due authority of Government, or afford to the evil-disposed an excuse, of which there cannot now be a shadow, to misrepresent an act which is one of pure clemency on the part of the Queen.—I have the honour to be, gentlemen, your very faithful servant,

W. E. GLADSTONE.

#### Postscript.

Wednesday, December 21st, 1870.

#### THE WAR.

(From the *Times* Correspondent.)

BERLIN, Dec. 20, 8-10 p.m.

The Russian Military Agent, Prince Wittgenstein, and some other diplomats, have been at last permitted to leave Paris. They say the city has bread, salt meat, and wine for another two months.

As French officers living in Germany on parole are daily deserting, ten officers will henceforth be sent to prison for each runaway.

The *Daily News* correspondent at Bordeaux, writing on the 14th, says that great uneasiness prevailed in Government circles, and the most enthusiastic friends of the Republic felt that if General Chanzy, the best French commander the war had produced, could merely boast of defending his positions, the prospect of the Army of the Loire relieving Paris was a very forlorn hope indeed.

Yesterday afternoon Father Hyacinthe delivered, in French, an address on France and Germany, at the Queen's Concert Rooms, Hanover-square. The proceeds of the lecture, which was listened to with deep attention by a crowded auditory, will be devoted to the Fund for the Relief of the French Peasantry.

#### MINISTERIAL RUMOURS.

(From the *Daily News*.)

According to a prevalent, but doubtful, rumour, Mr. Stansfeld will succeed Mr. Bright as President of the Board of Trade, Mr. Baxter becoming Secretary of the Treasury, and Mr. Shaw Lefevre Secretary of the Admiralty. Sir Charles Dilke, Mr. Mundella, and the Marquis of Lansdowne, are mentioned for the Secretaryship of the Board of Trade, should Ministerial changes create a vacancy in that office. It is believed in some quarters that the redistribution of offices will not involve any new admission into the Cabinet. But at present nothing is positively known or decided.

#### BIRMINGHAM AND SECTARIAN SCHOOL BOARDS.

(BY TELEGRAPH.)

BIRMINGHAM, Tuesday.

The Nonconformists are preparing a stubborn resistance to the payment of rates levied by school boards which permit sectarian teaching. An influential meeting has just been held in Birmingham, every denomination of Dissenters being represented, and the following resolutions were unanimously passed:—"First, that this meeting, representing various denominations of Nonconformists, strongly protest against the injustices and the inexpediency of using the educational machinery to be created and sustained by the rates for the purposes of sectarian teaching. 2. That the Central Nonconformist Committee be requested to watch the policy of the school boards, and in the event of any resolutions being taken which would involve the employment of the schoolmaster as a sectarian teacher, a meeting of Nonconformists be at once convened to consider what course of action the circumstances required." It was asserted on the best authority that a large number of Nonconformists will, in the event of sectarian Bible teaching being permitted, refuse to pay the school-rates, and will choose the alternative of imprisonment.

#### MARK-LANE.—THIS DAY.

The grain-trade to-day was again depressed, and some difficulty was experienced in obtaining Monday's reduced quotations. There was a limited supply of English wheat on sale, which sold slowly at the late decline of 1s. to 2s. per quarter. The arrivals from abroad were only moderate. The trade was dull, and prices were reduced likewise. Barley was in fair supply but limited request, at barely previous quotations. Malt ruled quiet, at 1s. a rates. There was a good show of oats on the stand, which could only be disposed of at a decline of 1d. to 1s. per quarter. Beans and peas experienced a slow sale, at prices tending downwards. The flour-trade was inactive, and prices occasionally were easier.

WELSH POLITICAL EVICTIONS.—It will be remembered that after the last general election, the manner in which some of the Conservative landlords evicted their tenants for voting in the Liberal interest created great indignation throughout the Principality, and it was determined to raise a fund for the relief of those who had suffered pecuniarily. The movement is now almost complete, about £3,800, having been collected in Wales, Liverpool, Manchester, and London. Of this amount, £1,900, was raised by private subscriptions, and the balance was collected in the Nonconformist chapels of Wales and the adjoining counties. Twenty shillings in the pound has been given in all cases where satisfactory proof has been adduced of eviction for political feeling. In Cardiganshire sixty-three claimants have been compensated by a grant of £2,000.; in Carmarthenshire, twenty-one claimants have received £600.; in Carnarvonshire £500. has been distributed among twenty-five applicants. One claimant in Denbighshire has received £15., and two in Merionethshire £150.

## TO ADVERTISERS.

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## TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"A Broad Dissenter."—On what principle would he refuse to commune with a Mahomedan—or would he refuse? We like breadth—but even breadth should know some limit.

"An Observer."—We really cannot reopen the question which was some time since so amply discussed in our columns.

## The Nonconformist.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1870.

## SUMMARY.

CHRISTMAS, with its family meetings, festivities, and enjoyments, is at hand, and we heartily wish our readers, during the coming week, all the cheerfulness and merriment which the season suggests. Love and sympathy are the essence of the happiness which Christmas brings in its train, and can only be adequately felt and reciprocated when they have free play. It is a time when we should especially not forget "to do good and communicate"—to feel for the suffering, and to help the poor and needy. And just in proportion as such benevolent impulses are embodied in deeds, will the enjoyment of the season be purified and enhanced.

Generations have passed since so unique and terrible a Christmas season has been witnessed in Europe. Throughout France there is mourning, desolation, and scarcity, and the calamity has fallen upon the whole people. One-third of their soil is occupied by the stranger; their capital is closely invested with a cordon of batteries; their fairest provinces are being devastated by the hand of war. Hardly a day passes without a battle of more or less magnitude, in which the lot of the wounded is far less enviable than the fate of the killed. War reverses all the rules and conditions of society. The élite of French manhood—such at least as have escaped the Prussian artillery—will pass this Christmas in Germany; the flower of German youth will gloomily spend the festival encamped in an enemy's country. When we add to this that thousands, if not hundreds of thousands, of non-combatants are destitute of home, shelter, and food—their houses having been burnt or wrecked; that Germans and French equally sigh for peace, and yet wage war with equal resolution; and that this fearful conflict goes on not with the expectation of a final settlement, but to exact conditions from a defeated nation which can only lead to an armed truce—we have indicated an anomalous state of things which is a reproach to Teutonic statesmanship, and a terrible stigma on the boasted civilisation of the age.

We have no reason to suppose that next week will be different from this, or that battles will not be fought even during the Christmas holidays. To scatter and destroy the Army of the Loire is the supreme military object of the German leaders. That great French force is now divided—the two portions being under the command respectively of General Chanzy and General Bourbaki. While the second remains before Bourges to cover that city, and is for the present unmolested, the first has been driven back rather than defeated by the forces commanded by Prince Frederick Charles. Many a desperate battle has been fought, in which the Germans have suffered severely. But though beaten and retreating, General Chanzy has preserved his army intact while retiring on Le Mans for reinforcements, while 150,000 fresh troops are on the march from Germany to strengthen the invading host. Tours has been abandoned;

Bordeaux is now the seat of the Delegate Government; and Normandy is overrun by the corps of General Manteuffel. But there are no signs that France is ready to succumb, or that she will lack abundance of men still to take the field.

"I am not going too far when I say that Paris never showed fewer signs of yielding than at the present moment," wrote the *Times* correspondent with the investing Saxon army less than a week ago. The siege of the French capital makes no progress. Day by day General Trochu is erecting fresh defences at an increasing distance from the ramparts and closer to the lines of the besiegers; so that a bombardment of Paris is now less probable than the shelling of Versailles! The city may eventually be reduced by famine, but is, according to all accounts, amply provisioned for many weeks, during which time its defenders can organise their forces for renewed sorties, and await the chance of relief from without. The war is exhausting the strength of Germany, and no one can now safely predict that the siege of Paris will not eventually be raised. Bitterly must the German leaders deplore their resolution to exact a territorial guarantee from a foe who does not know when he is beat, and from who no terms including dismemberment can be wrung.

The Luxembourg difficulty has nearly blown over. As we stated last week, Count Bismarck has simply claimed the right of a belligerent in the course he has taken in protesting against the breaches of neutrality by this small state. Our Government, as is understood, while disputing the right of any one of the guaranteeing Powers to repudiate the Treaty of 1867, accepts the Prussian Minister's circular as an act of accusation that needs to be inquired into. Count Bismarck, without questioning the independence of the Duchy, is, according to a semi-official Berlin paper, ready to submit his complaints of the violation of neutrality by Luxembourg, as well as his claim against the Grand Ducal Government, to arbitration. If it should turn out, as reported, that the sovereignty of the King of Holland over this small state will be transferred to his brother, Prince Henry of the Netherlands, the present Governor of Luxembourg, which would then enter the German Confederation, a very troublesome European question will be brought to a satisfactory issue.

The first meeting of the London School Board was held last Thursday, when it was decided that the chairman should receive no remuneration, and that Lord Lawrence should occupy that honourable position—the claims of Mr. McCullagh Torrens, M.P., and Mr. C. Reed, M.P., being set aside in favour of the peer. Mr. Reed was consoled by being elected vice-chairman. The spirit which prevailed at the first meeting of the Board augurs well for the future. Its members are bent upon discharging their own proper duties without delegating them to a paid chairman or plodding secretary. They have to deal with the educational necessities of three millions of people, and their first task will be to ascertain whatever deficiency of schools may exist throughout the metropolis—a work of great magnitude. The Boards which have been elected in the large towns have generally followed the example of London in their initial steps. It will be seen from some strong resolutions adopted at a meeting at Birmingham yesterday, that the Central Nonconformist Committee are prepared to take very strenuous measures to prevent the education rates from being used for the furtherance of sectarian objects. Such vigilance is commendable, and absolutely needed.

## MR. BRIGHT'S RETIREMENT FROM OFFICE.

OUR readers will not need from us any formal expression of regret that the Right Hon. John Bright has at length been permitted to sever the tie which connected him with Mr. Gladstone's Cabinet. We do but give utterance to a feeling common to a vast majority of our fellow-countrymen in saying, that for the sake of the Government to which his name has given incalculable strength and solidity, as well as for the sake of the nation, in one of the most critical periods of its history, we wish it had been possible to retain Mr. Bright as one of Mr. Gladstone's colleagues. We can easily understand that such an arrangement has been found impracticable. The state of the right hon. gentleman's health, although greatly improving, is quite a sufficient reason for his not complying with the strongly urged desire of his fellow Ministers that he would continue, for yet a while, to fill the post, the active duties of which he feels himself disqualified by physical weakness for discharging. We trust and believe,

however, that Mr. Bright's usefulness will not terminate with his official career; and should he be so far restored as to be able to attend in his place in the House of Commons whenever dispassionate counsel is specially wanted, the nation may yet derive no small advantage from Mr. Bright's political judgment.

Our right hon. friend's great influence is of a kind which, happily, he need not, and cannot, altogether lay aside. Office adds but little force to it. Powerful oratory, no doubt, had some considerable share in acquiring it for him; but oratory, even if it had been more powerful than his own—which seems hardly possible—could not by itself have won for him the command which he enjoys. Mr. Bright's speeches exercised such a potent sway over his auditors, mainly because they were so fitting an illustration of Mr. Bright's character. It was his privilege to be able during his long political career to hold against all temptation, on the one hand, and all opposition on the other, the political faith which had attracted his sympathies in early life. Of course, he has had his different moods of hope and despondency, but of him it may be said more emphatically than of most men in this generation, that "he staggered not at the promise through unbelief." A heart loyal and true to the great principles of human conduct, so touchingly and impressively exemplified in *Holy Writ*, and an intellect athletic enough to apply those principles, in their active energy, to all the prominent topics of civil polity, steadied him when all around him was shifting and unsteady, and never became more conspicuous, never conquered for themselves a wider recognition, than when he was within a few paces of the summit of success. No statesman of our day has so little modified his views of the political truths which have absorbed public attention during the last quarter of a century as Mr. Bright; while none has witnessed so great a change in the estimation in which he has been held by the country. His honesty, his frank outspokenness, his tenacious hold upon most of the items of his political faith, his breadth and Catholicity of feeling, his self-restraint, when self-restraint has been most needed, and his almost imperturbable good humour, which seldom forsakes him even when he is dealing out his hardest blows against the myths and impostures of bygone parties—combine to render him, at this moment, one of the most trusted statesmen of the day. The Cabinet which has lost him as a member will, we trust, continue to receive his support as a friend; and, if it be not too great an advantage to hope for, we shall express a very general desire in wishing that Mr. Bright may resume his place in the House of Commons, rather as an arbiter of parties than as a keen partaker of their strife.

It cannot be alleged, we think, that the approaching Session of Parliament can conveniently spare such service as Mr. Bright will be intellectually and morally qualified to render. Under the conduct of the present Government it is doomed to pass one of those dangerous *glissades* where its future of weal or woe for many years to come will depend upon the firmness of its foothold upon granitic truths. We have little doubt of Mr. Gladstone's appreciation of the essential dignity of the nation whose affairs are in his hand; and, in this respect, we can well believe that he receives the countenance of some of his ablest colleagues. But there does appear to us to be some fear lest the Administration should become infected by the epidemic of the passing times. England, we are sure—if it were possible to get at her real wishes in the matter—does not desire to mix herself up in any way with the interests or the policy of the military monarchies of the Continent. She knows that she already takes upon herself a sufficient burden of taxation to give her the fullest right to expect security against all assaults from without. She suspects that if her coasts are open to invasion, or if, being invaded, her army, militia, and volunteers, would be found unequal to the task of defending her hearths and altars, the reason is to be sought, not in the parsimony of her Representative Assembly, but in the discreditable mismanagement and want of organisation which characterise her Naval and Military Departments. She is aware that her army is, to a very limited extent, under the control of her Legislature or her Government, and whenever her foreign relations have assumed an unpleasant aspect, she has been taught to expect a cry from the influential classes to the effect that she is utterly unprepared to achieve the purpose for which her army and navy alone exist.

There can be no doubt that we are destined to hear not a little of this kind of clamour next Session. Possibly, the Ministers may have made up their minds to meet and withstand it, or, at any rate, to yield to it so far only as shall obtain for the country right issues. But we are not without our apprehensions that the

spirit which placed and kept Lord Palmerston in power, may be evoked to drive Mr. Gladstone from it, or to force him to the more fatal alternative of attempting to comply with its demands. There is no room for *finesse* upon so vital a question. We must either become a military people, or we must withdraw all pretensions to vie with the military monarchies of Europe. There can be no valid compromise. There should be no credulous ear given to the wild ravings of those who desire to convert England into a permanent camp. Mr. Bright, Mr. Gladstone, and Lord Derby, might perhaps constitute a moral force powerful enough to act as a breakwater against the encroachments of the incoming tide of Militarism. Each in his place would help mightily to save the nation from the silly schemes of those who have faith in nothing but extravagant estimates, and physical force. The Services effectually hold the balance in the House of Commons. They are all but irresistible in our West-end Clubs. They have a large hold on our newspaper press, and they can always raise a sufficient noise, and direct it through such well-selected channels, as to enable them to call it "Public Opinion." It is this artificial public opinion that will be brought to bear against a policy of non intervention and peace, as soon as Parliament opens. Would that Mr. Bright may be able to utter his calm, but emphatic, protest against the infatuation of the hour! In some way or another, we cannot forbear hoping, he will be able to let all parties in the State become sensible of the soundness of his judgment, the weight of his counsels, and the deep human instincts of his heart.

#### THE FENIAN AMNESTY.

IN the cursory account of "the state of Ireland" which we brought under the notice of our readers last week, we said that "in a few weeks it is probable the Irish political prisoners will be amnestied." Our conjecture has been realised sooner than we had expected. Writing to the ex-Lord Mayor of Dublin, Sir William Carroll, whose signature was the first of a large number appended to a petition presented by Mr. Downing, M.P., to the First Lord of the Treasury, Mr. Gladstone informs him that "Her Majesty's Government have carefully considered the case of the convicts now undergoing their sentences for treason and treason-felony, and that they have recommended to the Crown the exercise towards them of the Royal clemency, so far as it is compatible with the assured maintenance of tranquillity and order. They will, therefore, be discharged, upon the condition of not remaining in, nor returning to, the United Kingdom." There are between twenty and thirty of the Fenian ringleaders now in prison in England, and there are nine, we understand, under penal restraint in Australia. They may now obtain their release from confinement, but will not be permitted to make their future home in Great Britain or Ireland. They will, doubtless, betake themselves to the congenial atmosphere of the United States of America, whence, possibly, for a season, we shall hear of them again.

We are very glad that Mr. Gladstone, instructed, doubtless, by the Irish Secretary, Mr. Chichester Fortescue, has seen his way clear to this result. Facts, as they stand at present, appear to justify this almost spontaneous exercise of clemency. The prisoners owe it partly to themselves, and still more to their sympathising friends, that they were not recommended to the Queen's mercy in the autumn of 1869. The attitude then assumed by the Nationalists was one of defiance. They demanded as a right what could not have been conceded to them save as an act of grace. They attempted to overbear Mr. Gladstone by clamour. They looked with ostentatiously professed contempt upon the "Irish Church Act" which Parliament had just passed with a view to conciliate national sentiment in Ireland. They cared nothing for the Land Tenure reform, or rather revolution, which in the interests of tenants the Ministry was then busy in preparing. They would have a release of the political prisoners before all things. They would show their attachment to their chiefs. They made heroes of them. They resented their incarceration as an insult and cruelty to Ireland. They prayed the authorities to release these "victims of Saxon vengeance," as robbers sue for alms. Happily, the Government was firm. It refused to be rowdied into a dispensation of pardon. Mr. Gladstone wrote a letter in which, in the most feeling terms, but in a tone of unmistakeable decision, he let the disaffected Nationalists know that law still counted for something in the estimation of the loyal portion of the community, and that an amnesty torn from the hands of the Government would be an

affront to law. It roused much ill-feeling at the time. It probably contributed, by its immediate effects, to the necessity of the Peace Preservation Act. But it was plainly the right thing for the Government to do, and it pioneered the way for the much more gratifying act which has set the political prisoners free.

The case, however, came before the Prime Minister, under circumstances widely different, a week or two since. We are not informed, indeed, that the prisoners themselves have recognised the heinous character of their several offences, much less that they have displayed any contrition for them. Their expatriation, which has been insisted upon as the condition of their release, indicates that the Government does not regard them as having been essentially reformed by their prison discipline. But the state of feeling in Ireland is very different to what it was two years ago. The remedial measures passed by the present Imperial Parliament are beginning to have some soothing effect upon the temper of the Irish farmers and cottiers, and the Peace Preservation Act has armed public authority with sufficient powers to crush in the bud any lawless conspiracy against the safety of property, or against the peace of the kingdom. The crimes of which these prisoners were convicted have almost sunk into oblivion. Little danger can therefore be incurred by remitting the remaining portion of their punishment. Justice might have insisted upon their undergoing the full amount of their penalties, but statesmanship has to determine the proper occasions on which mercy may temper justice. There were myriads of people in Ireland not having a particle of sympathy with Fenianism who desired the release of those whom they designate "political prisoners." They will, we trust, be mollified by the announcement made by Mr. Gladstone. It is another proof of the conciliatory temper in which the Imperial Government desires to rule the sister kingdom. On grounds of general policy the amnesty may be justified, and will, doubtless, have the concurrence of most thoughtful persons in Great Britain.

It is not, however, in a lax administration of law that we are to look for the restoration of social contentment in Ireland—nor, we are fully persuaded, is it with any such view that the Premier has advised this exercise of clemency by the Crown. If Ireland is ever to cease to be, as we hope it will, "England's chief difficulty," the end will be achieved by sound, wise, and salutary legislation. An indulgent Executive will not succeed with any people whose interests law has consigned to neglect. A firm hand is sometimes as indispensable as a wise head and a feeling heart. We should be sorry that erroneous inferences should be drawn from this graceful exhibition of mercy, or that any one should conclude that crimes committed against the State are venial crimes after all. We can hardly conceive of more reckless outrages against any community than these Fenian convicts were guilty of, and we hope that their liberation will not be misinterpreted into a *quasi-sanction* of the practice of attempting to gain political results by senseless insurrection.

#### THE UNITED STATES AND ENGLAND.

THE full text of President Grant's Message to Congress somewhat diminishes the emphasis of his remarks relative to England as conveyed by the telegraphic summary, and subsequent events sustain the conclusion that no adequate reason exists why outstanding differences between the two countries should not be once for all amicably settled. The President's proposal that his Government should buy up the Alabama claims, and keep them in reserve, does not meet with much favour among his countrymen. They are beginning to regard this grievance, in its theoretical form, as "played out." Mr. Reverdy Johnson, who concluded the Convention with Lord Clarendon, which the Senate rejected, has again come forward, and, fairly enough contends that if that treaty had not been repudiated, all the losses to American citizens inflicted by the Alabama and other vessels fitted out as she was would long since have been fully discharged. That diplomatist condemns the Washington Government for attempting to appropriate these claims to accomplish some end of their own, and warns the President that he cannot reasonably expect England to make any further offer. The main point, however, is that public opinion is wearied of these delays—"the bitterness and resentment in America having," according to the *New York Tribune* "greatly died out." Mr. Adams, the late Minister to London, has come forward at this juncture to counsel moderation, and the whole press with one consent, laughs derisively

at General Butler's "bellicose vagaries." The general inconvenience resulting from the tactics pursued on the Alabama question has affected the Government, who have found the greatest difficulty in securing a suitable politician to succeed Mr. Motley at the London Embassy, and who have finally fixed upon General Schenck.

The Fisheries dispute, now revived with some bitterness by President Grant, is far more pressing than the Alabama claims, because it might at any time give rise to grave complications which no diplomacy could undo. Whether "the Colonial authority known as the Dominion of Canada," as the President somewhat contemptuously describes the Ottawa Government, is disposed to push its claims, some of them rather antiquated, to an undue extreme, is a fair matter for inquiry, but not for angry threats of reprisals. We gather from the New York papers that the Treaty of 1818 has recently been more rigorously enforced than heretofore, to the detriment of the United States fishermen, owing to the non-renewal of the Reciprocity Treaty which presses hardly upon the Canadians. But as the President's Ministers only recognise the Imperial Government in these matters, Earl Granville will be reluctant to assume a partisan attitude, and may decide that the Canadian authorities have been unduly pushing abstract rights which the Home Government cannot sustain. It will not be long, we expect, before General Schenck will present his reclamations on the subject. We believe they will be promptly examined, and in a work of this kind such an association as the Anglo-American Committee recently formed, ought to be enabled to render great service. If they should be able to suggest an equitable arrangement of the Fisheries dispute which, while conserving the fair rights of Canada, will also satisfy the reasonable requirements of the Washington Cabinet, they will have paved the way for a final settlement of all Anglo-American differences. Our Government will be able to look at the Fisheries question, as well as that of the navigation of the St. Lawrence, with more calmness and impartiality than the Dominion subjects of the Queen, and by successfully moderating pretensions on both sides, they may establish a claim upon American goodwill which our Transatlantic cousins would not be slow to recognise.

The time is singularly auspicious for such negotiations. Recent information encourages the belief not only that American animosity against us is subsiding, but that it is not likely to take a hostile form. The United States are not disposed to enter into combinations against England, or follow the truculent advice of General Butler. The good terms which have subsisted between their Government and Russia seem to have led Prince Gortschakoff to believe that America would act as his accomplice in the new policy shadowed forth by the repudiation of the Treaty of 1856. Mr. Fish, the Secretary of State, as we now learn, declined these overtures, and hinted that his Government were not disposed to depart from their neutral position. Political parties in America are not at times indisposed, for their own domestic purposes, to play upon the anti-Anglican prejudices of a portion of the community, and we fear that General Grant is not above this unworthy device. But Brother Jonathan laughs at the idea of a serious alliance against Great Britain, such as some of our alarmist newspapers are conjuring up. The great mass of opinion in the States is quite opposed to any such policy, and all the religious bodies, with one or two exceptions, hold to the parent country, and are strongly averse to any combinations, to the detriment of England, with the enemies of Protestantism, or the champions of autocracy. The alleged American *animus* against us is at present superficial and harmless. It should be our part to overcome it by a readiness to remove causes of offence and to promote cordial relations. A complete understanding with America is our greatest need in this period of European convulsion, and we earnestly hope that Lord Granville will spare no labour to bring about that consummation.

#### A CRUEL SPORT.

TIME was when our popular sports and pastimes were largely tinged with the elements of cowardice and cruelty; but of late years a marked improvement has been perceptible in this direction. Bear and bull-baiting, duck-hunting, wren-throwing, and other once favourite modes of popular recreation, have become things of the past; even the so-called glories of the prize-ring, with their brutalising tendencies, are now comparatively but little heard of. Still, the labours of the humanitarian are not ended. The love of cruelty yet lurks amongst us, and large

numbers of our population still derive a horrible enjoyment from the piteous sufferings of poor dumb animals, if not from those of their own creature kind. Fox-hunting, deer-stalking, pigeon-shooting, and similar "pleasures" of the country, have their staunch advocates. And so we have our *battues*, at which our aristocratic sportsmen transform themselves into amateur butchers; while Royalty itself is not above slaughtering pigeons to the delicious music of military bands, and encouraged by the approving smiles of high-born ladies. But that which is a virtue in My Lord Fitz-Noodle, or his friend the Marquis of Stubbleton, becomes a rank vice in Jack Noakes and Bob Styles. For instance, Jack and Bill are very fond of rat-killing matches, and have dogs which can each kill a hundred rats in a couple of minutes. "How shockingly disgusting!" cries my Lady Blanche de Roseville, "why do the police allow such things?" Yet my Lady Blanche allows no such expression of disapproval to escape her dainty lips at Hurlingham, or when, mounted on her nag, she enjoys a day with "the Pytchley." It was always so: we cannot see the mote in our own eye, we can only perceive the beam in our brother's. And thus it happens that some of the sporting fraternity are very indignant on account of an argument recently used by Mr. Montague Williams at the Marlborough-street Police-court. A publican, residing in Great Windmill-street, had been summoned on the charge of permitting rat-killing matches in his establishment. The case was proved by a police-constable, who stated he was present when a hundred rats were put into the pit and the dog set to kill them by the defendant. He saw the dog bleeding. It was sponged, and fresh blood dropped from its mouth. The dog was put to the rats three times. It appeared greatly exhausted, and was urged on by the defendant. When the dog was lifted out of the pit it was bleeding, and its tongue was hanging out of its mouth. Other evidence to the same effect was given, after which Mr. Montague Williams, who appeared for the defence, submitted that, "unless the magistrate came to the conclusion that fox-hunting was cruelty, it would be absurd to call the present charge cruelty to a dog. The dog had been seen, and was in perfect health, and seemed to be happy enough. The blood seen to fall from the dog might have come from the rats; but, if it did not, it made no difference. It was the dog's nature to kill rats, and, had the dog been averse, it could have jumped out of the pit and got away. The dog did not show more exhaustion than foxhounds would do after half an hour's run. If one was cruelty, so was the other. If killing rats in a pit was cruelty, what was to be said of the aristocratic sport of killing pigeons from a trap—the two cases being similar?" Of course this was no answer to the charge. Two wrongs do not make a right, but Mr. Williams has, intentionally or otherwise, put the question of fox-hunting or pigeon-shooting in a new light, so far as the sporting world was concerned, and added fresh weight to the already powerful contention of Mr. Freeman. Every argument adduced in favour of the aristocratic forms of sport, applies with equal force in favour of those which, from their surrounding associations, are classed as low and vulgar. If a rat-killing match in the cellar of a pothouse is a coarse and brutalising affair, so also must be the pigeon-shooting matches at Hurlingham, the deer-stalking of the Highlands, and the fox-hunting of the country. The principle is alike in all; a principle arising from the instinctive love of cruelty which leads the strong to prey upon the weak, and which, unless steadily repressed, gradually deadens the finer elements of our character, and reduces our taste to the level of the brute. It is only by steadily repressing this mischievous propensity of human nature that we can hope to produce the state of public opinion necessary to put down war. Sports of a cruel character tend to blunt the feelings and develop that terrible callousness of disposition which leads to an utter disregard of the sanctity of human life. It may be, and often is, necessary to destroy, for purposes of food or protection, the members of the animal or feathered tribes; but there exists not the slightest excuse for so doing in a spirit of mere wantonness. There is nothing manly or heroic in it. There is more of real healthful exercise in a cricket-match or a game of football than in all the pigeon-shooting and fox-hunting to which our "upper crust" are so addicted. If excitement be wanted, why not try yachting or boating? But no: some little courage is required in these forms of amusement, and this is precisely what the pigeon-shooter and the rat-killer are most deficient in. Their sports are those of the coward, and none but the cowardly and cruel can derive any enjoyment therefrom.

## Foreign and Colonial.

### THE BLACK SEA QUESTION.

Count Bismarck's despatch to Count Bernstorff, announcing the concurrence of the different Powers in the proposal of a conference, which is dated from Versailles, the 3rd inst., is published by the Berlin papers. Count Bernstorff is desired to communicate the fact to Earl Granville, and to inform him of "our satisfaction at the unanimous acceptance of the proposal for a conference, which I may regard as settled. Your Excellency will also express to him an expectation that the Cabinet of Great Britain, at whose seat the conference will assemble, will now take in hand the further management of the matter, and, naming a day for the opening, will invite the representatives of the Powers to the meeting."

Russia is still trying to arrive at a separate understanding with the Porte.

Count Benst, in his last reply to the note of Prince Gortschakoff, says:—"Austria adheres to the conference without previously adopting any resolution as to the questions to be discussed. She is only animated by the desire to ensure peace in the East, and to effect a lasting settlement of the subjects of dispute there prevailing; and at the same time to spare the national susceptibilities of Russia, without weakening the guarantees which had been judged necessary by the Powers."

The Moscow Town Council, having in their congratulatory address on the Black Sea question, petitioned the Czar to add liberty of the Press, tolerance of all religions, and other reforms, to the blessings he has conferred upon his subjects, their address has been returned with a reprimand.

The St. Petersburg correspondent who sent to a foreign paper a summary of President Grant's letter to the Czar, concerning a possible co-operation of Prussia and America, has been haled to Olonetz. The letter being private, its publication is regarded as constituting an offence against the person of the Emperor.

### GERMANY.

King William received the Reichstag deputation at Versailles on Sunday. There was a large assemblage of Princes and Generals. The King was much moved, as also were all present. The King first thanked the deputation for the support the Parliament had afforded the Government by voting supplies for the prosecution of the war, and by co-operating in the work of national unity. His Majesty continued as follows:—"The request addressed to me by the King of Bavaria to re-establish the dignity of Emperor of the old German Reich has filled me with deep emotion; but you know that in this question, which affects such highly-esteemed interests and memories so greatly cherished by the German nation, my own feelings or my own judgment cannot influence my decision. Only in the unanimous voice of the German Princes and Free Towns, only in the united wish of the German nation and its representatives, shall I recognise a call from Providence, to which, relying upon God's blessing, I could conform." Afterwards the deputation were received by the Crown Prince.

The offer of the Imperial Crown of Germany to King William has, it is reported, awakened fierce animosity at the Vienna Hofburg.

The Prussian Diet was opened on Wednesday with a Speech from the Throne, in which stress was laid upon the patriotic efforts the country had made, and the assurance given that internal reforms would be carried out as soon as peace should be re-established.

Herren Bebel and Liebknecht, both members of the North German Parliament, who recently expressed sympathy with France, have been arrested for high treason in connection with their Brunswick manifesto. They are Socialist in opinion. The *Vossische Zeitung* has also been confiscated for an unpatriotic article on the war.

### ITALY.

The proposed Papal guarantees are objected to by some deputies as contrary to public rights. In the Parliamentary committee on the subject, Signor Lanzi remarked, "Our engagements towards the Roman Catholic world require that all possible concessions should be made to the Papacy." All the clauses of the bill were passed.

### AMERICA.

Mr. Charles Francis Adams, the former American Minister in London, in a speech before the Historical Society, advised moderation on the part of the United States regarding the Alabama claims, and deprecated the efforts of certain politicians to lead the country into war. The *New York World*, commenting on the speech, condemns the bellicose vagaries of General Butler, and urges the Government in pressing the American claims in respect to the fishery question not to lay punctilious stress on political etiquette, or to require humiliating concessions from Great Britain. The *Tribune* says that the existing dormant war between Great Britain and the United States should terminate, the bitterness and resentment here having greatly died out, and Great Britain showing a willingness to discuss the question of the Alabama claims on a basis more compatible with American honour. Regarding the fisheries, the *Tribune* says that serious men recognise the sinister aspect of the question, but it hopes that Great Britain will act promptly upon the vigorous reclamation which General Schenck is sure to present.

General Butler, after having been soundly rated

by almost every one for his recent belligerent address on American relations with England, has received a word of encouragement from a congenial source, the Fenians.

### CHINA.

By the French mail we have received news from Shanghai to the 1st of November. The Tientsin correspondent of the *North China Herald* states that of the sixteen men who were beheaded on the 19th of October for the Tientsin massacre, not more than two or three were really concerned in the riot. The others were bought for the purpose, and their families paid sums varying from 100 to 500 taels. "The whole number are regarded as patriots by their countrymen, and were treated with all honour before and after death. They were feasted over night, dressed in silks and mandarin-shaped hats when led out to execution, and lauded for their noble self-sacrifice in the interest of their country. It is even said that the bodies are now lying in state, and that a public funeral has been talked of. The mandarins had assured them of their regret at the obligation imposed on them, but that nothing less would satisfy foreigners; at least so runs the Chinese story." The principle on which the punishment was inflicted is said to have been life for life. Four men were still in gaol under sentence of death for the murder of the four Russian subjects, and the delay in their execution is said to have been caused by the demand of the Russian Consul-General to see proofs that they are really the culprits. The Chinese also state that some more persons are to be banished; that the two mandarins are under sentence of banishment to Tartary; that £1,250,000 are to be paid as compensation for the death of M. Fontanier, and £1,210,000 as compensation for the Consulate and mission buildings destroyed. The English Consul was not present at the execution, and took no official cognisance of the proceedings, and the Foreign Ministers at Pekin are said to have remonstrated against the principle on which the executions took place.

A telegram from Tientsin, dated Nov. 22, says there have been further hostile demonstrations against Christians.

### FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

The new Queen of Spain, Maria Vittoria, is a clever but bigoted woman. She has a great deal more character than her husband, and Prin will find in her either a strong opponent or an able coadjutor. Her husband is timid and shy in manner.—*Letter from Florence.*

**THE INDIAN REFORMER AND HIS SCHEMES.**—A new society called the "Indian Reform Association" has been formed in India under the auspices of Baboo Keshub Chunder Sen, having for its object, first, female improvement; second, temperance; third, charity; fourth, cheap literature to the poor; fifth, education for the working classes and industrial schools. Persons of every creed and colour are invited to co-operate in furthering the interests of the association.

Recent trials show that powder ten years in India has not lost its strength.

A *Daily News* telegram from St. Petersburg informs us that Prince Orloff has been recalled, and that Baron Brunnow is reinstated, and will continue as Russian Ambassador in London.

Should the Pope live till June, 1871, he will have completed the twenty-fifth year of his Pontificate.

A "Pontifical Anniversary Fund" is already started.

**NEW FORMS OF ROMISH IDOLATRY.**—The Pope has declared "the glorious Patriarch S. Joseph, Spouse of Mary Immaculate, and Adopted Father of the Incarnate Word," to be Patron of the Universal Church. His festival, occurring on the 19th day of March, is to be celebrated for the future as a Double of the First Class, but without an Octave on account of Lent.

Mr. W. H. Seward, the late American Secretary of State, who is now on a tour in the East, during his stay in Japan had an audience of the Mikado, and afterwards breakfasted with that Sovereign's Ministers. The Mikado's manner is said to have been "most cordial" throughout the interview.

**INDIA AND THE ATTITUDE OF RUSSIA.**—The *Times* correspondent at Calcutta, in his letter of Monday morning, gives a remarkable instance of the way in which news (especially news of our relations with Russia) circulates in the East. "I do not know," he says, "whether our newspaper telegrams or the bazaar rumours were first with the intelligence of Russia's declaration with respect to the Treaty of 1856; but if the telegrams were first, the rumours soon outstripped them in the race, and 'War with Russia' was, I should say in one day, the staple talk in almost every bazaar in India. How the thing is done, we dull Westerns never may know: it seems so altogether out of our line of thought, and it is marvellous. The fall in English funds was nothing compared with the stagnation in Indian bazaars."

**A NEW INTERPRETATION.**—A Boston preacher, the Rev. J. D. Fulton, who has taken in hand the Book of Revelation, finds a plain prediction of gunpowder in the following words:—"And I saw the horses in the vision, and them that sat on them, having breast-plates of fire and of jacinth and brimstone; and the heads of the horses were as the heads of lions; and out of their mouths issued fire and smoke and brimstone." This, says the American interpreter, "is almost an exact description of the appearance presented by a company of light-horse careering over the plain, and charging down upon the foe, shouting, with the pistol held close beside the mouth of the horse!"

## CHEAPNESS OF UNIVERSITY EDUCATION.

We have been favoured with the following communication from Charles S. Roundell, Esq., Fellow of Merton College, Oxford, and well known for his zeal on behalf of University reforms and University extension, calling attention to the cheap rate at which, owing to recent changes, the best education can now be obtained at the Universities. The writer's remarks have Oxford chiefly in view, though there is reason to believe that the same statement will substantially apply to Cambridge also:—

"1. The students of whom I shall speak are called unattached or non-collegiate students, because their connection is with the University, and not with any college or hall. This is the principle of the great change which has been lately effected on the system which has subsisted at Oxford for upwards of two hundred years. Though not members of any college or hall, these students are equally entitled to all the privileges and benefits of the University to which other undergraduates are entitled. In point of dignity and academical *status*, the non-collegiate student is on an equality with the collegiate student.

"2. The distinctive feature of the system is the ability of the student, while at the University, to live in (licensed) lodgings of his own choosing. He thus avoids the expense of college life, and is free to practise the utmost frugality suitable to his means.

"3. I will first state the full items of the charges to which a student is put in obtaining a University degree. I will then state in detail the practical steps of his University course.

"4. On becoming a matriculated member of the University he pays a certain sum down. He also pays certain yearly sums during his three years' course.

"The sum to be paid down at matriculation amounts to 7*l.*, made up of 5*l.*, the matriculation fee, and 2*l.*, for what is called caution money. The latter sum, however, or the balance thereof, is repayable to the student when he removes his name from the books of the University.

"The yearly sums payable by him during his three years' course are for University dues, examination fees, tuition expenses, board and lodging.

"What these several payments amount to will be best shown by the following extract from the latest official report of the Students' Delegacy at Oxford. The significance and importance of this extract cannot be overstated:—

"A voluntary return made by twenty students enables the delegates to answer with some confidence the question so often asked—namely, 'What is the yearly cost of the system to a careful undergraduate?' The average weekly cost of living (board, lodging, and extras) on the twenty returns was 3*s.* But if the lowest ten be taken, the average falls to 2*s.* In detail, the returns of these ten were—2*s.* 6*d.*, 2*s.* 9*d.*, 2*s.* 2*d.*, 2*s.* 2*d.*, 2*s.* 2*d.*, 2*s.* 6*d.*, 2*s.* 4*d.*, and 3*s.*

"Taking this average as the sum per week for which a thrifty student can get respectable board and lodging in Oxford, we arrive at the following figures for a year's expenses:—

Board and lodging for 3 terms of 8 weeks, 2 <i>s.</i>	£31 4
University dues	4 10
Examination fees (on the average)	1 1
Tuition expenses (about)	10 10

£47 5

"It will of course be observed that these figures do not include travelling, books, clothes, pocket-money, or cost of living in the vacations. Still they prove conclusively that a careful student can get through his Oxford career for a sum not exceeding 50*l.* a year.

"5. I will now explain the several steps of the course of an unattached student, from his matriculation at the University, to his final degree.

"Having furnished the University delegates with (1) a testimonial of good conduct and character, and (2) with a certificate of his parent's or guardian's consent to his living in lodgings, or (alternatively) of his being twenty-one years of age; the intending student is subjected to an examination, to test his proficiency in classics and mathematics. These matriculation examinations are held at Oxford four times in the year. The subjects of the examination are (1) Three Books of Homer (say 'Odyssey,' books VI.-VIII.; or (alternatively) one Greek play (say the 'Hecuba' or 'Alcestis' of Euripides). (2) Three books of Virgil's 'Æneid'; or (alternatively) three books of the 'Odes of Horace.' (3) Translation from English into Latin prose. (4) The elements of Greek and Latin Grammar. (5) Arithmetic, including fractions, decimals, and proportion. (6) 'Euclid, Books I. and II.; or (alternatively) algebra, the first four rules, fractions, and simple equations.

"If the candidate satisfies the examiners, he is matriculated as member of the University by the Vice-Chancellor; and can begin at once to reside and keep terms.

"6. All undergraduates must keep twelve terms (but not necessarily in consecutive order) before proceeding to the degree of Bachelor of Arts. There are four terms in the year, for the purpose of counting terms of residence; but, for all practical purposes, only three, namely, Michaelmas, Lent, and the Summer terms. Eight weeks is the usual period of residence in each of these three terms.

"7. Supposing the student to have begun to reside in Oxford, we have now to see what provision is made by the University for discipline and tuition.

"8. Ample provision is made for the maintenance of discipline, under an organised system under the charge

of special officers of the University. In particular, certain houses in Oxford (in June, 1869, numbering 405, and containing 744 sets of lodging) are specially licensed for the purpose by the University; and ordinarily no student is allowed to reside except in one of these licensed houses. The price of these lodgings ranges from 8*s.* per week upwards. In their first report the Oxford delegates say:—

"The delegates think it right to say that their students have conducted themselves quietly and well, and have shown themselves industrious, and determined to make an intelligent use of the advantages placed within their reach.

"Similarly, the official report at Cambridge states that—

"Hitherto the results of the new scheme have been satisfactory, if not very considerable. The students have been well-conducted, and, generally speaking, studious; and it has been proved by experience that it is possible for an undergraduate to live in Cambridge as cheaply as in many other towns.

"9. The tuition is provided either by private tutors appointed by the Censors, or by college tutors who are willing to admit unattached students to their college lectures.

"10. In order to understand what follows, it must be understood, first, that (in addition to the above-mentioned examination at matriculation) there are three university examinations to be passed for the purpose of a degree; and, secondly, that the course of reading will be different, according as the student reads for honours (that is to say, a place in the class list), or merely for what is called a pass (that is to say, the attainment of a minimum standard of proficiency sufficient for a degree).

"The three examinations are called Responses, or 'Little Go'; Moderations; and the Final Schools or 'Great Go.' Responses may be passed in the first term of residence; Moderations in (at earliest) the fifth term; the Final Schools in (at earliest) the twelfth term. Practically, Responses are generally passed in the second term of the first year; Moderations in the second term of the second year; the Final Schools at the end of the third year.

"11. If the student is a 'Passman,' he will be recommended to attend two courses of lectures per term. These lectures may be put at 30*s.* for each course; that is to say, 3*l.* per term, or 9*l.* per annum.

"12. In the case of a student whose education has been neglected, who comes up to the University (say) without sufficient knowledge of grammar, and with slender knowledge of translation into Latin prose, more special tuition is needed. Such a one is recommended to read with a private tutor, whose charge is about 5*l.* per term, or 15*l.* per annum. But it is generally found that such persons stand in need of this special help only for the first year.

"13. If the student aims at honours, that is to say, a place in the class-list, he, of course, requires the best teaching the University furnishes. For this purpose there are open to him the lectures of all the Professors, and also the lectures, already referred to, of certain college tutors. For these lectures (with the exception of certain of the best and most useful of the Professors' lectures which are understood to be thrown open, free of charge, to unattached students) a moderate terminal fee is payable. But even for honours, the yearly charge to the student for tuition does not usually exceed the above estimated charge of 10*l.* 10*s.* per annum.

"14. It is of importance to add that a student who intends to read for honours (other than classical honours) in the final schools, is permitted by the University statutes, under certain conditions, to drop Latin and Greek altogether after his second examination; that is to say, after (it may be) rather more than one year of residence. And thus his undivided energies, for nearly the last two years of his residence at the University, may be devoted either to mathematics, or physical science, or law and modern history, or theology.

"15. At the present time there are ninety-six of these unattached students of Oxford; and the number is steadily increasing. That is to say, though the system has been in operation for only two years, there are only two or three of the colleges that have a large number of undergraduate members.

"16. Liberty of conscience, respect for a man's religious convictions, is guaranteed to every undergraduate at each University by Act of Parliament.

"17. Thus it will be seen how the ancient Universities have thrown open their gates to the poor man. This opening of the Universities is the crowning of the educational edifice, of which the primary school and the grammar school are the main supports.

The work of the Legislature will be complete when (as may be expected) in the coming session the

privileges, honours, and emoluments of the Universities and their colleges are in their fullness thrown open to merit, without regard to membership of a particular church.

"P.S. If further information on the above subject is desired, application should be made to the Censors of Unattached Students, Old Clarendon-buildings, Oxford, or to the Rev. R. B. Somerset, Trumpington-road, Cambridge."

## THE TOTAL ECLIPSE OF THE SUN.

DECEMBER 22, 1870.

The following interesting information is given in the new number of the *Leisure Hour*, by Mr. E. Dunkin, of the Royal Observatory:—

An eclipse of the sun when more than three-quarters of its face is covered, always proves to be a very interesting and popular phenomenon, even when observed only through a piece of hastily smoked glass. Such a one will be the great eclipse of the sun, visible in England, on Thursday, December

ber 22, 1870. The fact of the obscuration being the effect of the direct intervention of the moon between the earth and the sun, makes a solar eclipse of far more scientific importance than a lunar eclipse, when the moon is darkened only by the shadow of the earth, in which it is enveloped. During an eclipse of the sun, the most precise observations are made at all the principal observatories, with the object of subsequently comparing the calculated positions of the sun and moon—the accuracy of which depends upon the correctness of the solar and lunar tables used in the computations—with the results obtained from the actual readings of the instruments. The observations consist of rapid measurements of the angular distances between the two solar cusps, which are always as rapidly enlarging or contracting, as the moon advances on, or recedes from, the solar disc. The general public, however, do not look at a solar or lunar eclipse with the critical eye of the astronomer, but with that laudable curiosity with which every expected celestial phenomenon is regarded. As this eclipse is the largest which will appear in Great Britain for some years, and as it will be total in the southern parts of Europe, the readers of the *Leisure Hour* will probably be interested beforehand with a few details relating to it.

Although on December 22 the sun is at nearly its lowest point in the ecliptic, and consequently must necessarily be only fifteen degrees above the horizon at the greatest phase, yet it is sufficiently high to be viewed satisfactorily during the progress of the eclipse. This low altitude will be even an advantage to many, as the various phases from the beginning to the end may be comfortably observed from a window, without exposure to the winterly temperature of the external air. For the convenience of those who reside in different parts of the country, we give the Greenwich, or railway, times of the beginning, the greatest phase, and the ending, for a few of the principal towns.

	Beginning of Eclipse. h. m.	Greatest Phase. h. m.	Ending of Eclipse. h. m.
London .....	11.8 A.M. ...	0.25 P.M. ...	1.42 P.M.
Cambridge .....	11.8 " ...	0.25 "	1.41 "
Oxford .....	11.6 " ...	0.23 "	1.40 "
Liverpool .....	11.4 " ...	0.20 "	1.38 "
Edinburgh .....	11.8 " ...	0.19 "	1.34 "
Dublin .....	10.50 " ...	0.14 "	1.31 "
Dublin (Irish time) .....	10.34 " ...	11.50 A.M. ...	1.6 "

The magnitude of the eclipse at all these places is nearly equal, the differences being scarcely appreciable to the naked eye. To view the progress of the moon it will be necessary to be provided with a piece of smooth glass, carefully smoked over a candle, or what is far better, pieces of coloured glass of different densities. A dark green or blue is a good colour, but some of the opticians provide sunshades with a neutral colour, which is perhaps the best.

Those who wish to note the first appearance of the dark edge of the moon must have the eye directed to the right-hand side of the sun, when, exactly at the times given above for the beginning of the eclipse, the first contact will take place. The motion of the moon over the sun will soon be evident to the naked eye, until at the greatest phase more than four-fifths of the sun will be obscured.

It is not, however, in this country that we may expect the most important observations made. The physical constitution of the solar photosphere, and of the shadow band of incandescent matter exterior to it, to which the term "chromosphere" has been applied, has formed a most enticing branch of astronomical inquiry during the last few years. Much of the knowledge on this subject we now possess has been obtained from the discussion of the observations of the remarkable phenomena observed only during total eclipses of the sun. By the construction of spectrometers of great dispersive power, some of these phenomena have been seen, since October, 1868, without the intervention of the moon, and, thanks to the zeal and perseverance, under difficulties, of a few amateur astronomers, we are beginning to know, at last, something tangible about the solar surface, especially of the composition of the chromosphere, of which the rose-coloured protuberances are detached portions. But the spectroscope has not yet assisted us in determining the origin of that beautiful appendage called "the corona," which can only be seen during the few minutes of totality. It is therefore principally to observe the corona that several astronomers are expected to visit the south of Spain, Northern Africa, and Sicily, and to endeavour to solve the question, which at present is uncertain, whether it is simply a solar appendage, as it has hitherto generally been supposed, or whether it is produced partly or solely within the atmosphere of the earth. The observations of the total eclipse of 1868 in India seemed to give satisfactory proofs of its solar connection, but in the American eclipse of 1869 the observers mostly came to an opposite conclusion. It is hoped, therefore, that the observations of the forthcoming eclipse will permanently decide which opinion is deserving of the greater confidence.

The central line of the shadow path enters Portugal north of Cape St. Vincent. The narrow band of total darkness includes Cadiz, Xeres, and Gibraltar, in Spain; Oran in Algeria; Syracuse in Sicily; and leaves Europe after passing through Turkey, north of Greece. The duration of totality in Spain will be 2m. 11s., and in Sicily, 1m. 52s.

Mr. Hind, the astronomer, writes to the *Times*:—"Though the eclipse of the sun on Thursday next will have been exceeded in magnitude by more than one of the eclipses which

have been visible in this country during the last thirty years, it will yet be the greatest eclipse that can be witnessed in England during the remaining thirty years of the present century; on this account it possesses a degree of interest which does not always attach to partial eclipses, and induces me to send you the subjoined accurate times of beginning and ending, which I have calculated for a number of places in England and Wales, sufficiently distributed to give a general idea of the course of the phenomenon. In the metropolis the first contact of the moon with the sun's limb occurs at 11h. 7m. 42sec. a.m., Greenwich mean time, at a point five degrees above the sun's centre on the right hand, and the last contact at 1h. 42m. 4 sec. p.m., exactly on a line passing through the centre and parallel to the horizon, on the left. The eclipse at the greatest phase (25 minutes after noon) just attains that magnitude (0.8) when daylight has usually begun to assume a yellowish tinge under clear skies, though it will, perhaps, hardly be large enough to cause any very sensible diminution of light at this season."

The English Eclipse Expedition has met with a disaster. On Thursday the *Psyche* struck on a sunken rock near Catania. All hands were saved, and also the scientific instruments. Mr. Norman Lockyer states that the captain, who behaved most nobly, had telegraphed to Malta for assistance in the hope of saving the ship. The *Psyche* had gone from Malta to Naples to receive the astronomers, who are proceeding to Sicily for the purpose of observing the eclipse of the sun. The instruments alluded to are those sent out for their use.

#### LORD DERBY ON THE PRUSSIAN MILITARY SYSTEM.

On Wednesday the Earl of Derby distributed the prizes recently contested for by the members of the 1st Lancashire Rifle Volunteers, and, in the course of some remarks on national defence, deprecated the idea that the Prussian military system was desirable for this country. "When," he said, "people talk of drilling and disciplining by degrees, year after year, the entire able-bodied male population of this country—that is, some four or five millions at least—in order to repel a possible attack of, at the most, 100,000, they must either have a wonderfully low opinion of the fighting powers of Englishmen, or else they must be thinking of something beyond mere defence." The English Volunteer system Lord Derby regards as being essentially "free, spontaneous, and practically gratuitous"; and, although it may be desirable, in order to improve the efficiency of the forces, to exact an adequate amount of attention devoted to drill from those who enter the service of their own free will, these preliminary characteristics of the organisation must needs be maintained. "If other reserve forces are wanted, let the deficiency be supplied." That is another matter; but, "in the long run, it will be even cheaper, to say nothing of any other consideration, to pay the fair market value of the military labour you want rather than to take it by force. But his lordship offered for the consideration of his hearers another and more important reason why the Prussian system of armaments should not be adopted. "A nation was made to be something more than a camp, and a system under which war shall be carried on, not, as in modern days till now, by comparatively limited armies, but by the whole mass of the people, is not an advance in civilisation, but an essentially retrograde step. It may be change, it certainly is not progress, if that much-abused word has any meaning at all. I ought, perhaps, to apologise for trespassing on what is more or less, controversial ground. My excuse must be that everybody's head is full of these matters, and no wonder, after what we have seen within the last few months. Accept, gentlemen, my warmest wishes for your continued prosperity and efficiency, and let me add the assurance of my conviction that, whatever be the changes of detail which may be introduced into the Volunteer service with a view to make that service more effective, those changes you will cheerfully accept, knowing, as you do, that it is not enough, although it may be much, to give time and trouble to public duty. If we want to serve the State officially, we must often do it at the sacrifice of our own favourite ideas, and the true test of public spirit is to be ready to help on good useful work even when that work is not carried on exactly after the fashion which we should ourselves prefer." (Loud applause.)

On Friday Lord Derby presided at the special dinner at Manchester of the Royal Albert Asylum for the Northern Counties. Returning thanks for the House of Lords, the noble earl observed that he did not think the real function of that body consisted mainly in the mere delaying of measures upon which the public has set its mind. In the first place, that function of delay is a very subordinate and a very unimportant one. In the next place, if it were possible, which it is not, that any legislative body could be so constituted that it should exercise that function only, it would very soon be so unpopular that it would cease to exist. The real duty of the House of Lords, as he conceived, was revising and reconsidering the measures which came to them from the other House of Parliament. Nearly all his political life had been passed in the House of Commons, and therefore he was bound, and he was sure it was his wish, to speak well of that body. (Cheers.) As to the purely political functions of the House of Lords, he thought their weakness and their difficulty did not arise, as

people are apt to fancy, from the growth of democratic power, but from the fact that the increase of wealth had been so great in this country, and the number of persons holding important positions in society so numerous, that the House of Lords could not claim to be anything more than as it was sometimes put—a jury selected at random out of the upper classes. Whatever they might be, however, and however they might exercise their power, he thought that, for those among them who chose to look out for public duties to discharge, there was still abundant opportunity left. (Loud cheers.)

#### THE OPIUM TRAFFIC IN CHINA.

BY THE REV. GRIFFITH JOHN, OF HANKOW.

##### IV.

I resume the statement of some of the many evils which result from the vice of opium-smoking in China:—

4. Opium-smoking affects the population by producing sterility. The excessive use of the drug for three or four years deprives the victim of the power *liberos procreare*. There can be no doubt of the truth of this statement, if native testimony is at all to be relied upon. The Chinese say that probably one-half of the regular opium-smokers are childless, and that the children of the other half are few, feeble, and sickly. They also affirm that the family of the opium-smoker will be extinct in the third generation. When a man smokes, his son generally smokes also, and generally begins at an earlier age than his father did; so that if the son be not childless, as is often the case, his children are born with feeble constitutions, and die prematurely.

5. The moral effects of opium-smoking are of the most pernicious kind. It seems to paralyse the moral nature. It bedims the moral vision, blunts the moral instincts, and extinguishes every virtue. Strong drink may upset the balance of the mind for the time, but opium seems to absorb all its virtues, and to leave it a dead, emotionless thing. The Chinese say that an opium-smoker is always devising some mischief, and that not the slightest confidence can be safely reposed in him. Whilst in affluent circumstances, the danger is not so great; but the moment penury sets in, he becomes an object of suspicion and aversion to all around him. There is nothing too mean or too corrupt for him to attempt in order to allay the insufferable craving for the drug. He will ruin his parents, and even sell his wife and children, to procure the necessary supply. He will lie, cheat, and steal to the utmost extent of his ability, without the faintest sense of shame or wrong, when urged on to do so by the exigencies of his vicious habit. As ardent spirits tend to make men hot-tempered and violent, so opium tends to engender lying, duplicity, trickery, extreme selfishness, and moral insensibility. "It blunts the moral sense," observes Dr. Medhurst, "causes good men to waver in virtue, and makes bad men worse. Even Coleridge, with all his fine susceptibilities and acquaintance with religious truth, was tempted to prevaricate and deceive, in order to conceal his indulgence in the habit, and to elude the vigilance of those who were engaged in watching him. How much more, then, may we expect a lying nation like the Chinese to lie so much the more in their attempts to conceal their vices from the eyes of observers. . . . Not only is the moral sense weakened in opium-smokers, but the habits they have acquired naturally and necessarily lead them into associations where they are directly tempted to the most profligate vices. A man accustomed to the use of the drug, therefore, soon becomes worse in other respects, and having commenced the downward career, every step in the rake's progress is more and more deteriorating. Opium-smoking is thus the parent of numerous evils which are not originally chargeable upon it. When unable to procure the drug by honest means, such is the craving for it among its slaves, that fraud, peculation, and theft are resorted to in order to obtain it."

6. Opium-smoking is a fearful consumer of time. The narcotic is indulged in at stated intervals, and when the hour arrives, the appetite must be gratified, or serious consequences ensue. If not supplied with the usual quantity just at the right time, a restless longing and an intense craving for it set in, which utterly incapacitates the victim for the exertion of mental or physical power till appeased. The act of smoking itself absorbs a great deal of time. Opium is not smoked like tobacco, standing, sitting, or walking. Neither is it gulped like whisky or rum at the bar. "The person who is about to smoke reclines on a couch, resting his head on a pillow; with one hand he holds the pipe, taking the mouthpiece between his lips; with the other hand he takes a small portion of the extract, and applies it to a little nozzle on the pipe's head with a pointed steel wire or long needle, at the same time holding the nozzle directly over the flame of a lamp, making a deep inspiration,

so that the fumes of the drug pass into the lungs. The fumes, after being retained for a short time, are allowed to pass away by the mouth and nostrils. Another application of the extract is then made as before, which is continued for a longer or shorter time, according to the effect wished to be produced." This process requires entire cessation from all other occupation, and the smoker concentrates his whole soul on the pipe whilst going through it. The average quantity for a moderate smoker is a *mace*, or a drachm, a day, and this quantity requires about four hours to be consumed comfortably. Of course it may take a longer or a shorter period, according to the habits of the smoker, but this is the time that it generally takes. The victim can do nothing in the morning before he gets his first dose; the mid-day whiff is also an essential; and the evening is given up to the pipe. This is an enormous daily tax on the time of the labouring man. But few confine themselves to this amount. In order to keep up the stimulus excited by a single *mace*, the quantity has to be augmented till two, three, and even five *mace* a day are consumed. The time wasted in the consumption of these large quantities is simply enormous, and those who have business to attend to find it hard to manage their affairs. There are some who use ten or more drams. They, however, belong to the wealthy, who are free from all cares and responsibilities, and can afford to spend their whole time in a state of intoxication. Such men do not live long. The nights of the excessive smokers spent either in smoking or in the enjoyment of its ecstatic effects, are wakeful; it is only in the morning that they are able to procure quiet repose; and they seldom or never wake before noon. Hence the common saying among the Chinese, that the opium-smoker "turns the day into night, and the night into day."

7. Opium-smoking dissipates property and impoverishes the country. It is an expensive vice, especially to those who indulge in the *foreign* article. It takes from the labouring man, who smokes the average quantity, about half his wages. But its indirect effects are still more fatal. The indolence, weakness, and neglect of business induced by the habit, bring with them loss and ruin in myriads of cases. The rich are reduced to poverty, and the poor reduced to beggary and starvation by the accursed vice. Besides this, the country itself is being impoverished by it. The tea, silk, and silver of the country go to pay for, not a necessary, nor even an innocent luxury of life, but a destructive poison. It is not merely an unproductive expenditure. Were it simply that, we might, perhaps, in speaking of it use the language of Mr. Mill with respect to unproductive consumption in general:—"It would be a great error to regret the large proportion of annual produce which in an opulent country goes to supply unproductive consumption. It would be to lament that the community has so much to spare from its necessities for its pleasures, and for all higher uses. This portion of the produce is the fund from which all the wants of the community, other than that of mere living, are provided for; the measure of its means of enjoyment, and of its power of accomplishing all purposes not productive." But whilst political economy does not absolutely forbid all luxuries, it must absolutely condemn every species of luxury which necessarily produces misery and only misery. Such is the luxury of opium-smoking; and, looking at the matter from this point of view, the trade in opium—both in its contraband and legalised forms—which has been forced on the Chinese, is eminently unjust and immoral. It will be seen from the following statement that, as far back as 1833, the amount of the opium imported was greater than that of the tea exported, and that it formed nearly one-half of the total value of British imports\*:

Imports in 1833.	Exports in 1833.
Opium ..... 11,618,167	Tea ..... 9,133,749
Other imports 11,858,077	Other exports 11,309,521

23,476,244 20,443,270

Thus, even at that early period, "the pernicious drug sold to the Chinese exceeded in market value the wholesome leaf that has been purchased from them; and the balance of the trade was paid to us in silver." The following statistics will show that matters have not been improving since:—

Imports in 1867.	Exports in 1867 to all countries.
Taels. Opium ..... 45,071,357	Taels. Tea ..... 38,754,009
Silk ..... 15,724,380	Silk ..... 15,724,380

49,478,389

Thus, in 1867, the total value of the opium imported from India, fell short of the total value of the tea

\* See Davis's "China."

and silk exported from China to all countries, only by about four-and-a-half millions of taels. This is an appalling fact. We need nothing more to show us how the vicious habit of opium-smoking is impoverishing the country, how ruinous the trade is to the nation, and how excusable the Chinese Government are for the aversion with which they contemplate the extension of what we call friendly and honourable intercourse. Whilst opium continues to be the main branch of British commerce in China, the Chinese Government will find it impossible to regard contact with us in any other light than that of a terrible calamity. They will naturally shun us as they would a deadly plague. We cease to wonder at this when we call to mind the fact that, whilst the value of British produce exported from the United Kingdom to China, in 1867, is represented by the sum of 6,111,446/- the net opium revenue of India stood, in the same year, at 7,049,416/- Besides forming one of the main sources of revenue to the Indian Empire, the opium-trade yields more than 11,000,000/- to the people of India. And this lucrative trade is carried on at the pecuniary expense of the Chinese, and, in spite of the unspeakable detriment it is inflicting on the physical and moral weal of the nation. With these facts before us, it behoves us to speak modestly of the great benefits which the foreign trade has brought to the Chinese. China, I think, has much reason to shed the bitter tear as she recalls to mind the day on which she first opened her gates to the white man from the West. This one curse introduced by him far outweighs all the commercial blessings he may confer for ages to come.

8. Opium-smoking is rapidly effecting the physical, mental, and moral deterioration of the nation as a nation. The principal characteristics of the Chinese are industry and endurance. They are a hard-working, busy, patient, practical people; and this it is that has made them what they are. Now this vicious habit strikes at the very root of these admirable traits, and threatens to transmute the most industrious people in the world into a nation of helpless idlers. When travelling through Si-Chwan, I could not but observe that opium was eating up the stamina of that sturdy people, and that it only required one or two more decades to convert them into a comparatively imbecile race. In the non-producing provinces, the farmers smoke less than any other class of the population, being certainly not more than three or four per cent. But in the opium-producing provinces, nearly all the agriculturalists indulge themselves in it. Then there is the rapid deterioration and present imbecility of the existing Government. This, to a great extent, is to be ascribed to opium. The late Emperor used the drug, and most of the Government officers throughout the country are guilty of the practice. Nowhere has the insidious poison insinuated itself more readily than among this class; and its baneful effects are nowhere more conspicuously seen. If assiduity, truthfulness, and uprightness are essential anywhere, surely it is in this circle they are so. But the direct tendency of indulgence in this drug is to extirpate these virtues, and plant their opposites in their room. It makes the indolent, lying, mercenary Mandarin ten times more so. It fosters baseness and corruption of all kinds. But opium is getting to be used generally by all classes, and the bulk of the population is falling rapidly under its fatal spell. Unless something interposes in behalf of the Chinese, they must as a people sink rapidly; for the poison is destroying the very vitals of the nation.

9. Opium-smoking and the opium-trade present serious obstacles to the progress of Christianity. Opium-smokers cannot be admitted into the Christian Church. It would be a degradation and a reproach to have such men connected with us. Dr. Medhurst remarks that "no confidence can be placed in the religious profession of an opium-smoker unless he abandon the vice, and even then the missionary should have very good evidence of his having done so, before admitting him into connection with the Church." This is so generally true of the victims of opium, that every missionary is bound to act on this rule. Such is the moral bluntness and insensibility induced by the habit, that no appeal seems to touch their heart. Their profession of faith and repentance is generally simulated with the view of obtaining assistance to procure the drug. And even though the victim were a sincere believer in the truth, he would find it almost impossible to break off the habit, so that to admit him into church fellowship would do little else than cause him to prevaricate and dissemble in order to conceal his sin. Moreover, the opium-trade has created a strong prejudice against the missionary and the Gospel. The Chinese cannot see how the same people can dispense to them a destructive poison with the one hand, and a saving

religion with the other. They know, too, the history of the trade; and they have their doubts as to whether a people who could carry on such a nefarious traffic have a right to talk about religion, and to exhort them to become virtuous. The missionary is often interrupted with questions such as these,—Does not the opium come from your country? Why do you bring opium into China? How can you exhort people to be good whilst you injure and destroy us with this poison? &c. This horrible trade has done more than anything else to render the heart of the nation callous to our message. And yet we are often asked by the opium-merchants how it is that the Gospel is not making greater progress in China!

### Miscellaneous.

**PROHIBITION OF MARRIAGE.**—The directors of the Union Bank of London have just issued a circular announcing that any of the persons in their employment in receipt of a salary under 150/- per annum contracting marriage will subject himself to instant dismissal. It seems that the order is to be retrospective as well as prospective.

**CHRISTMAS DAY.**—As Christmas Day will this year fall on a Sunday, the following day, Monday, the 26th, will be observed as an almost universal holiday. In the present state of the law, the banks must remain open, but the attendance will be much smaller than usual. The Stock Exchange will be closed on Saturday, the 24th, so as to insure a continuous holiday from Friday evening to Tuesday morning.

**THE ALLEGED "ABDUCTION" AT CARDIFF.**—At Cardiff, on Saturday, the charge of perjury against the Rev. N. Thomas and his wife was dismissed. It arose in connection with the alleged abduction of a Jewess, of whose whereabouts the defendants made an affidavit that they had no knowledge, whereas the theory of the prosecution was that they knew well where she was. The prosecutor, Mr. Lyons, the father of Esther Lyons, declined to be bound over to prosecute on indictment.

**THE NEW GENERAL POST OFFICE.**—The ceremony of laying the chief corner-stone of the new General Post Office was performed on Friday by Mr. Ayrton, M.P., the Chief Commissioner of Works, at the corner of Newgate-street and St. Martin's-le-Grand. The building will be one of four storeys, and it will have a frontage of 286 feet in St. Martin's-le-Grand, and another of 144 feet in Newgate-street. It will be constructed of Portlandstone, the first two storeys being ornamented with Doric and the others with Corinthian pilasters. The principal entrance will be in St. Martin's-le-Grand, facing the present Post Office. The estimated cost of the building will be 129,700/-

**SMALL-POX IN LONDON.**—At a meeting of the Metropolitan Asylum's District Board on Saturday, it was stated that the Hampstead temporary hospital was quite full, and that small-pox was still on the increase in the metropolis. Both from the north and east of London there were accounts of the insufficiency of hospital accommodation. The managers promised that every effort should be made to meet the existing want. At a meeting of the Association of Medical Officers of Health, on the same day, the importance of energetic action in endeavouring to check the progress of this shocking disease was generally pointed out. The Irish Registrar-General's returns for the past quarter show that there have been only four deaths from small-pox in that country.

**THE HARROW RAILWAY ACCIDENT.**—The coroner's inquest arising out of the railway collision at Harrow brought its labours to a conclusion on Thursday. The verdict was to the effect that the accident was caused by the neglect of danger-signals by William Shely, the driver of the pilot-engine of the express; that the company's rules as to foggy weather were not complied with; and that Charles Robison, the signalman at Wembley, is deserving of censure. The jury added:—"We believe that the safety of the public will not be secured until it is enacted that goods and passenger trains shall not run on the same metals when the traffic is so extensive as on the London and North-Western Railway in the neighbourhood of the metropolis. We further that in all cases the absolute block system should be rigidly enforced, and that the hours of work of the signalmen are excessive and should be reduced."

**H.M.S. CAPTAIN.**—Mr. Childers, the First Lord of the Admiralty, has issued an important minute with regard to the loss of the Captain. He states that though the Admiralty approved the design of the Captain yet that Captain Coles and Messrs. Laird accepted the entire responsibility, and they were entirely satisfied that the Captain fulfilled the conditions on which she was built. Mr. Childers cannot think that Mr. Reed, the Chief Constructor of the Navy, is quite accurate in the statement that he made to the court-martial to the effect that he had entertained an apprehension that there would be danger to the Captain under pressure of canvas; but if he did, the First Lord is of opinion that a heavy responsibility rests upon him in not having warned the Controller of the Navy. Mr. Childers promises that further investigation shall take place; but he trusts that the calamity will not prejudice the turret system, which has been successful as regards other vessels.

### Literature.

#### PROFESSOR SEELEY'S LECTURES AND ESSAYS.\*

Though most, if not all, of the "Lectures" and "Essays" which Professor Seeley has collected in the volume before us are reprints, they are not on that account less valuable as a contribution to our literature. It would, indeed, have been a subject of regret if papers so thoughtful, so rich in permanent interest and so adapted to some of the present questions of the hour, should have been left to pass into that comparative oblivion which is the certain lot of the greater part of magazine literature. Even in the case of *Quarterly* reviews this is so far true that their best writers, anxious that their productions should exert the widest and most enduring influence, have thought it necessary to republish them in a separate form, and though this practice has sometimes been carried too far, there can be no doubt that where the articles themselves have intrinsic value, they have judged wisely. Much more, however, is it desirable in the case of contributions to any magazine, however popular. We have no need, however, to insist on the value of such reprints at present, for the danger is that there should be too many rather than too few of them. An author who is tempted to make such a venture would do well to think twice before he commits himself to a step perilous for all but men of a superior order. Such a man is Professor Seeley, and these "Lectures and Essays," though relating to different subjects, and in no way forming an organic whole, have yet for the most part so much of unity of aim and thought about them that they have very properly been grouped together.

As might be expected from a Professor of History, educational and historical subjects occupy a large part of the volume, and we regret that by a somewhat different arrangement of the materials the essential connection of some of the papers is not more clearly indicated. The lecture on "The Teaching of Politics" is the "inaugural" of Professor Seeley in the high position which he so worthily occupies, would naturally have come first, as indicating his view of the scope and functions of his office, and of the way in which history is to become a teacher, and how it may best be taught so as to bring out lessons it has to impart. On these points he has views which must have been new and startling to many of his hearers. "Politics" are generally regarded as alien to the work of the college lecture-room and the study, but Mr. Seeley is so far from holding this notion, that he would so teach history as to make it contribute to the formation of sound political opinion. He vindicates the right of history to a more prominent place than it has yet held in education, on the broad ground that it is the "school not only of statesmanship but also of public feeling and patriotism." "There are" (he says with great truth), "it is true, men who, without any knowledge of history, are hot politicians, but it would be better for them not to meddle with politics at all. There are men who, knowing something of history, are indifferentists in politics, it is because they do not know history enough." In enforcing and illustrating his view he has to deal with the relative importance of the past and the present as teachers, the question raised by Cobden in his well-known comparison between Thucydides and the *Times* newspaper, and the mode in which he discusses it indicates the possession in a remarkable degree of the qualities essential to a Professor of History. It required some little courage to appear even to lean at all to the view of Cobden in such an assembly as that he was addressing, but after clearing away much misconception that is likely to arise in the controversy between the classicists and modernists by a confusion of terms, and showing that it is of contemporary rather than that which is called modern history that Cobden speaks, he shows how much there is of truth in his view. If he insists that events are important in proportion to their nearness to our own time, he is wrong; if he maintains that the study of any period of the past is valuable only as it throws light upon the work of the present, he is right; and, in truth, those who at first sight seem opposed would agree with him so far. The real difference between the two schools is that the school of Cobden approach the problem directly, while the other take a more indirect course. A Professor of History, of course, should do both. He cannot be forgetful of the light which the past throws upon the present, but

\* *Lectures and Essays.* By J. R. SEELEY, Professor of Modern History, Cambridge. (London: Macmillan.)

neither should he neglect to observe what is passing around him. Very well and tersely does Mr. Seeley put the case, "What I wish to see is not a neglect of past history, whether contemptuous or respectful. I would rather that we realised the past less drowsily, that something better prevailed among us than what I may call the Waverley view of other times. The past is, in my eyes, the best commentary on the present. What is it, then, that I urge? This, that the text should be put before the commentary, and the present before the past." Such a mode of teaching history will make the study at once more interesting and more practical. It is one sign of progress that such a view should be propounded by a Cambridge Professor, himself an accomplished scholar, who disavows, as might be expected from him, any sympathy with the contempt for the old learning felt by the anti-classicist school, but whose good sense and superiority to mere conventional opinion have led him to take ground substantially the same as that of the eminent Lancashire manufacturer.

Of the way in which the past may be used as a commentary upon the present, we have an admirable example in the three lectures on "Roman Imperialism," which are, in fact, almost perfect specimens of historical teaching. The brief but very complete and graphic pictures of the Empire and its story, the art with which facts are grouped round a centre, and employed in the illustration of a principle, the disentangling of that which is essential from what is merely incidental and accessory, the originality and suggestiveness of the conclusions formed from the whole, are so admirable, that we hesitate not to say that the reader will get a truer conception of the Empire from these lectures than from many an elaborate treatise. Professor Seeley is extremely felicitous as a narrator, but he is equally acute and penetrating as a critic, and his judgments are formed with great independence, and sustained with considerable fulness of illustration. The same remarks apply, though hardly in the same degree, to the essay on "Milton's Politics." The view of the position taken by the poet and those who acted with him is in the main true, and is advocated in a way which gives the essay a good deal of life and freshness. We have been in a little doubt, however, whether Professor Seeley attaches sufficient importance to the Stuart period. In the discussion on the relative value of different periods he says, "I think it very likely that he (Cobden) might have agreed with Arnold that Pericles and Demosthenes are better worth remembering and studying than Cesar-de-Lion or the Black Prince, and even than the Stuarts or Louis XIV." If this refers only to the individuals themselves, it is so much of a mere truism that it was not worth stating, for no man of culture would ever dream of comparing any of the Stuarts with Pericles or Demosthenes; but this comparison would be so superfluous that it can never have been intended to suggest it. And yet it seems strange that the Stuart period of our own history should be regarded as less worth remembering for the instruction it conveys than the period of Athenian story with which it is compared. For even Clarendon's History, narrow, and partial, and unreliable as it often is, is superior in interest to an Englishman to that of Thucydides, and despite this somewhat ambiguous utterance we fancy Mr. Seeley after all agrees with us. He tells us indeed that this "period no longer excites our passions or appeals to our party prejudices," a statement to which we should somewhat demur, but he feels at the same time that "the substance of that old controversy can never become obsolete." In Milton himself he recognises one of the "genius politicians" of the world, and the comparison which he institutes between him and some others of the same class is very suggestive and extremely fair.

Of the other papers in the volume, those on the teaching of English, and on the "Church as a teacher of morality," are specially valuable. There is a good deal in the latter which requires qualification, but it is full of suggestions which all preachers should lay to heart and by which they may profit even though they may dissent from many of the arguments our author employs.

#### BRIEF NOTICES.

*Hours of Christian Devotion.* Translated from the German of A. Tholuck, D.D., by ROBERT MENZIES, D.D. (Blackwood and Son.) This volume, the outcome of a truly devotional nature, was prepared by the author during years of enforced solitude and cessation from work. "It was," he writes in the preface, "the state of my eyesight, which for a length of time threatened to fail me, that proved the occasion of my writing the book which I now present to the Christian

world. During the winter mornings and evenings I was prevented from pursuing my usual employments by candle-light, and it was then that, in quiet rumination, the plan of these 'Hours of Christian Devotion' was matured." That plan is, "to give in these meditations a view of the development of the Christian life on both its inward and its outward sides." . . . "I likewise hope to meet the wants of those who, at least, are not destitute of Christian feelings, but in whom these are not accompanied by a developed Christian intelligence." The work is new to English readers, but it has been known and greatly valued in Germany for thirty years. Why it has not had an earlier introduction into this country we cannot wholly understand, for its merit is very great, and it excels in those qualities in which many of our so-called books of devotion are sadly deficient. It is not enough that such works should provide for the Christian disciple penitential confessions and ascriptions of praise to God; they should at once quicken spiritual desire and help to guide and comfort the seeking heart. This service M. Tholuck is eminently qualified to render. "I have been young," he says, "but now am old—I have spent a whole lifetime in battling against infidelity with the weapons of apologetical science, but I have become ever more and more convinced that the way to the heart does not lie through the head; and that the only way to the conversion of the head lies through a converted heart, which already tastes the living fruits of the Gospel." The life of Tholuck has furnished a richer soil for the cultivation of the manly Christian virtues than that of A'Kempis, and for that reason his meditations, which in many points resemble the breathings of the early and mediæval writers, are especially suited to this age. What Gerhardt and Tersteegen are in Christian song, Tholuck is in devout meditation. We can heartily commend the book to our readers, promising them that they will derive from it a stimulus to their piety, and a solace in hours of darkness.

*The Plymouth Pulpit.* Sermons by H. W. BEECHER. Third Series. (Dickenson.) We are exceedingly glad to hear more of the American Pulpit, especially through its greatest man, Mr. Beecher. The pulpit among ourselves has not anything like the power it ought to possess. If it is not absolutely dying of dignity, it is certainly losing much of the influence it might legitimately exert through this cause, and everything which serves to teach it the weakness of thus sacrificing strength to mere conventionalism or respectability is a great gain. We know nothing so likely to do this as Mr. Beecher's sermons. He is a free, bold, fearless speaker, who feels that the "burden of the Lord" is upon him, and that he must say, not what the Church or the world expects him to say, but what his conscience tells him he ought to say on every subject of great public interest. He deals with all kinds of questions, sometimes directly, sometimes indirectly, but always vigorously and powerfully. He is not afraid of being thought a political preacher; and one of the sermons of this series, that on "National Unity," is one of the most perfect specimens of what a political sermon should be we could desire to see. But let no one think he is less Evangelical or spiritual because he thus deals with every-day topics. He is intensely earnest, grandly eloquent in his exposition of Divine truth and exhibitions of Divine love, tender and touching in his appeals. This volume is a rich treasure, placed within the reach of all by the very moderate price at which it is issued.

*Mariette: or, Further Glimpses of Life in France.* A sequel to "Marié." (Bell and Daldy.) This little book (308 pages) is, as the title-page intimates, a continuation of one previously published, the success of which, as we may presume, has encouraged the author to venture on a second. We are not surprised. The worst thing about it is its title. But this is to be said, although its author or authoress is English or Irish, he or she has so long lived in France as to be able to be satisfied with such a "pretty" title to a book which deserves a more attractive one. It is not a love story exactly, although there is a little of the "old, old story" in it. It is not exactly a book of travels, although there is a great deal of what we usually find in such books. Anyhow, it is a very pleasant book to read—beautifully written indeed, by an accomplished person, with ample powers of observation. The young in their teens will be delighted with its descriptions of foreign manners and its pleasant incident, and some older folk will find it a welcome relief from graver occupations. Besides a good deal of very interesting detail concerning life in Brittany, there is interspersed much historical information which will make it as valuable as it is interesting.

*A Manual of the Ancient History of the East, to the Commencement of the Median Wars.* By FRANCOIS LENORMANT and E. CHEVALLIER. Vol. II. (London: Asher and Co.) We have previously noticed the first volume of this most valuable addition to the repertory of the historical student. We learn from the very candid preface to the present volume that in deference to the criticisms of such men as Professors Rawlinson and Max Müller, the history of India has been omitted, on the ground that some of the data on which the French authors had based their conclusions were open to serious doubt. Without this the volume con-

tains (in nearly 400 pages of close type) chapters on the Primitive Arians, their separation: the Indian Empire, its Destruction; the Foundation of the Persian Empire; Cambyses and Darius; Primitive Phoenicia; Sennacherib; Tyrian Epoch; Carthage; the Arabians, Yemen, Hejaz, and Arabia Petra. It would be impossible to overestimate the value of this volume to the lover of general history, or to the special student of the earlier history of mankind. A table of chief authorities is given at the head of each chapter. A very exhaustive index will be found at the close of the volume, with a list of references to Scripture texts and passages in Herodotus.

*A Book of Golden Thoughts.* By HENRY ATWELL. (London: Macmillan and Co.) The compiler of this elegant little volume has executed his task well. Of course it would be easy enough to fill volumes with precious gems of thought borrowed from writers of all countries and of all ages. Mr. Atwell has the more difficult duty of making a smaller selection, and he has done it with judgment and care. His reading has been extensive, and he has made good use of the stores at his command. His collection is a rich repertory of wise and suggestive utterances on a great variety of subjects, and it is almost impossible to dip into it without finding something that will interest and instruct.

*Scripture Pocket-Book for 1871.* (Religious Tract Society.) Among a crowd of competitors this old favourite holds its place. It is elegant and convenient, just the kind of book one may desire to carry with him as a friend useful in all emergencies.

#### CHILDREN'S GIFT BOOKS.

A long row of books prepared especially for the delectation of the young still lies before us. We have endeavoured to separate those merely intended from those actually adopted to serve this purpose, but there are few that fail to establish their claim. Messrs. Macmillan and Co., always pre-eminently successful in choosing the good and refusing the evil, have four works of a very entertaining character. *Crackers for Christmas*, by E. KNATCHBULL-HUGESSEN, M.P., is another work from the pen of one who captivated the hearts of our boys last year with his "Stories for my Children." The fairy element is happily blended in this new collection of stories with the real every-day experience of child life, and both are made subservient to the high moral purpose which is always steadily kept in view. For the elder children this will prove a most acceptable present. *Stories About*: by Lady BARKER, is full of lively anecdotes about dogs, monkeys, horses, foreign lands, and so forth. We have but one fault to find with the book, and that is that the language employed is not carefully adapted to the requirements of the young. We do not say this in disparagement of the book, which, in spite of this defect will find thousands of juvenile admirers. *When I was a Little Girl*, by the author of "St. Olave's," is not open to this objection. It is one of the choicest morsels of child biography which we have met with. The inculcation of love and obedience and contentment is not the less, but the more impressive because it is indirectly effected by the simple narrative of domestic life. The memory of the author stands her in good stead, furnishing her with a continuous record of adventures in which wise and loving parents play a prominent part. The doll department is most exhaustively worked. The book will be irresistible to girls. *The Fairy Book*. By the Author of "John Halifax, Gentleman." In this elegant volume of 350 pages are gathered together most of the old-fashioned, time-honoured classic Fairy tales. They are made suitable for modern British children by the graceful pen of a celebrated writer, who has also laid some French and German authors under contribution. The collection is as ample and varied as any child can desire, and framed in such a fashion as no parent, who approves of such reading, can find fault with; the compiler having been specially careful to admit nothing which could really harm a child. By means of this volume, set in ornamental borders and illustrated by a number of coloured plates in the antique style, from the designs of Mr. J. E. Rogers, our juvenile friends—and not a few children of larger growth—may revel in fairy land; make or renew their acquaintance with the "Jack and the Beanstalk," "Hop-o'-my-thumb," "Cinderella," "Beauty and the Beast," "Rumpelstiltsken," "Puss in Boots," &c., without the aid of the Christmas pantomime; and make acquaintance with some of the fanciful creations of Perrault, Madame d'Aulnois and Grimm.

*Truly Noble.* By Madame DE CHATELAIN. (Cassell, Petter, and Galpin.) A capital story, nicely illustrated, and one which has everything to recommend it to the favour of the young. It has good lessons which cannot be too often inculcated. Pride, self-will, obstinacy, are only too common faults, and we are indebted to any one who will take the trouble, in so simple and attractive a manner, to exhibit their weakness and folly, and point out a more excellent way. The story is all the more interesting at present from its pictures of German life and scenery.—*Cyril Ashley. A Tale.* By A. L. O. E. (T. Nelson and Son.) It is impossible to read without sympathy the brief but touching preface in which the authoress, who is evidently labouring under a sense of declining health and strength, intimates that this will

probably be her "last work." She has been for some time so successful a writer for children that, both for her own sake and for those to whom she has ministered, we shall greatly regret if this should prove to be the case. Her present story is marked by the characteristics of her former ones. The story is well told, and is pervaded by a sincere and earnest but unpretending Christian spirit. Those who have "A. L. O. E.'s" former books will be glad to add this to their collection.—*A Treasury of Old Favourite Tales, introduced in the Story of Rockbourne Hall*. Edited and written by MARY HOWITT. (Gall and Inglis.) The title tells what this book is, and we need only add that the stories are well selected and are cleverly introduced into the story with which they are interwoven. They are what they profess to be, "old favourites," and we have no doubt will prove as acceptable to this new generation as they were to their predecessors.—*The Holly Tree Farm*. By Mrs. M. B. BICKERSTAFFE. (Johnstone, Hunter, and Co.) Mrs. Bickerstaffe knows how to write for children, and here, in a series of tales relative to the various occupants of the farmyard, each one of whom is the representative of some particular vice, she not only ministers to the entertainment of the young, but gives them some useful lessons.

Our old friend *Old Merry* (Hodder and Stoughton) must not be forgotten while we are bestowing a due meed of praise on his fair competitor. Here he is as fresh and lively, as full of spirit and of sympathy with the young as ever. By those who have derived so much pleasure from his earlier volumes, it will hardly be believed that this year he has surpassed himself, but our own judgment is that this is an improvement even upon its predecessors. It is the commencement of a series, and *Old Merry* seems determined that it shall be an improved one. "We have" (he says), "enlarged our magazine, enlarged our circle of friends, enlarged the puzzle department, enlarged our staff of contributors, and, as I hinted before, our heart is enlarged." Perhaps some would say that *Old Merry* has always been so pleasant and genial that this last enlargement would not be an easy thing to accomplish. Suffice it to say that he is at least as hearty as ever, and that all his statements about the annual are strictly true. The puzzles strike us as specially ingenious and instructive, and will afford abundant and entertaining, as well as useful employment for winter evenings. Those who have had the annual before are pretty sure to have it again, and those who have not made acquaintance with it may be assured that they will not easily find a more acceptable Christmas-box for their youngsters.

*Marmaduke Merry, the Midshipman. A Tale of Naval Adventures in Bygone Days*. By W. H. G. KINGSTON. (London: Bernrose and Sons.) Mr. Kingston is as usual one of the most successful purveyors for our Christmas literature. He seems never weary of writing for boys, and he does his work so well that boys seem never weary of reading his stories. "Marmaduke 'Merry' will, we predict, have its full measure of popularity. It is a story of years ago, when life in the navy was very different from what it is to-day, of days of war, when young midshipmen had more of stirring adventure, and not only more of danger, but more of discomfort and oppression. The story is a capital picture of the times, and of the sort of life which a youth was likely to lead. Our young midshipman was, as he tells us, Merry by name and merry by nature, and was continually getting into all kinds of scrapes and perils, the story of which is sure to prove full of attraction to the class for whom the book is written.

Another book of Mr. Kingston's, also a story of adventure and travel, is, *In the Eastern Seas; or, the Regions of the Birds of Paradise*. (Nelson and Sons.) This, though also a naval tale, is of a very different character from the other, combining a good deal of instruction on points of geography and natural history with the tale. We should prefer it to its companion, but boys who hesitate to choose between them, cannot do better than secure both. Some may object to tales of this character as fostering a love of sea life, but as a parent who was sending out a son, said to us the other day, "What would England do without sailors, and why should not my son go as well as another?" It is to be said for Mr. Kingston, too, that better tales of their kind for boys we do not know, with the single exception of Sir S. Baker's wonderful story of two years ago.

*Aunt Judy's Volume* (Bell and Daldy) is just the book to tempt our young people, and to delight them when they have secured so rich and inviting a prize. It has every quality which a book of its kind should possess, an elegant and attractive exterior, plenty of interesting matter, with an ample, yet not excessive, supply of those tales which are a constant source of pleasure to those for whom *Aunt Judy* caters, and numerous illustrations of a high order. Mrs. Gatty has a genius for the work she carries on here, and she spares no pains to make her magazine a welcome visitant at every fireside. One feature deserves special notice. *Aunt Judy* is anxious to train her young friends in habits of active benevolence, and that she may enlist her sympathy, and employ their efforts, she has established what is called "*Aunt Judy's Cot*," that is a bed for a patient in a most valuable institution, which deserves to be better known than it is, the Children's Hospital in Great Ormond-street. The money which is raised by her little readers is itself no small thing, but the sympathy

with the suffering, and the special interest in the patients for whom the provision is made, kept up by means of the monthly reports, are still more important.

*Mores Ridiculi*. Depicted by J. E. ROGERS, author of "*Ridicula Rediviva*" (Macmillan and Co.) This is a book of real genius. To some it may seem nothing more than a freak of genius, and a somewhat absurd one too, for an artist to expend his skill on the illustration of old nursery rhymes, but after examining these extremely clever pictures it will be difficult to maintain such a view. They are works of art of a somewhat eccentric character, perhaps, but of a high order. The originality of conception, the quaintness of the figures, the taste of the colouring, which while rich and striking, is always in perfect harmony, are alike admirable. The illustration of the old "Song of Sixpence," for example, which is the first in the book, is a perfect study. The art with which the painter has introduced the various parts of the little song—the King with knitted brow poring over his book, the Queen enjoying in secret her bread and honey, the wonderful pie which is the foundation of the legend, and the maid whose clothes-hanging ends in such an unfortunate result, is deserving of highest praise. It is altogether a rare book of its kind.

*The Wilds of Africa. A Tale for Boys*. By W. H. G. KINGSTON. (Nelsons.) A capital tale it is. It commences with the description of a voyage in the brig Osprey, and of the passengers and crew. The Osprey was wrecked on the shores of Africa. Some of the reckless crew were murdered by the natives, others had to take to rafts. Soon these were discovered by a slaver and taken on board. Disgusted with what they saw in this vessel, the party begged to be set on shore, and were landed on the coast. Here their adventures in the "Wilds of Africa" begin. They journeyed for many weeks, and met with all sorts of dangers and escapes. A skilful and practised writer, such as Mr. Kingston, well knows how to fill up the plan of such a story. It abounds with clever descriptions of scenery and of animals, and is crammed with romantic incidents. The characters, too, are good and natural. There is not a book published this season which a boy will delight in more than in this. It is profusely illustrated with engravings of high character and finish.

*Hetty's Resolve: a Story of School Life*. By the Author of "*Under the Lime Trees*," "*Aunt Annie's Story*," &c. (Seeley, Jackson, and Halliday.) A book for girls at school, and one which they will read—some of them, of the sort most likely to be found in the circles where these words will be read—with pleasure and with much advantage. The author has known what it is to be a school girl, and, we fancy, a mother too. There is a little bit of "love" in it, but healthily told. There is "moral" right through the book, but so wrapped up in the story that it cannot be skipped, and we are glad to say that the moral, or religion, we might call it, is free from all sickness. We know one school girl who will devour it this Christmas. If many hundreds more have the chance, they will "the better of it."

*What England owes to her sailors, and to that love of adventure which keeps the ranks of our navy well recruited, may be judged from a capital little book, *Hearts of Oak*, by W. NOEL SAINSBURY (Bradbury, Evans, and Co.) which consists of stories of English adventure from the days of Raleigh downward. The work is done in a thoroughly masterly style. Mr. Sainsbury has not availed himself of the labours of others, but from a careful study of the State papers, has collected a number of interesting facts, relative to the early history of our commerce and colonial empire, and has told them in a simple and yet attractive manner. The book is an excellent introduction to the study of our colonial history, and is something much more than a book of amusement, though it is lively and entertaining enough.*

1. *Love and Life in Norway*. 2. *The Fishing Girl*. These two works are the productions of the well-known Norwegian tale-writer, BJORNSTJERNE BJORNSEN, and are published by Messrs. Cassell, Petter, and Galpin. They are very different in character, and for power both of conception and execution the "Fishing Girl" certainly stands first. Mr. Bjornsen writes in graphic and decisive style, with full grasp of very varied materials. The incidents and characters are full of life, and are skilfully drawn illustrations of Norwegian manners and customs. The conception of the "Fishing Girl" is very original. Apart from their interest as romances, both these works are worth reading for their Norse character. We have not had such good literature of its kind since Frederika Bremer wrote. The translators, Augusta Plesner and Frederika Richardson, appear to have done their work well, and with the publishers are to be thanked for introducing these works to the English public.

*The Boy Crusaders; a Story of the Days of Louis IX.* By J. G. EDGAR. (Edinburgh: Gall and Inglis.) A handsome, or at least very showy, book, radiant in gilt edges and glittering devices of binding, with "eight full-page illustrations," in fact, wanting in nothing in the getting up but a little more margin and "old style" type. Of what is inside we have not a word of complaint. The book is about that one of the pages of universal history which has the most of romance in it of all history's pages. But though the story of the Crusades has been written over and over

again, this is a new line out of the page, in which the fiction and the fact are so woven that any boy who gets hold of it will read it all through, perhaps at a sitting, and if he do, will ask some questions which it will be well if the "old folk" can answer.

*Little Red Shoes and other Tales*, by Two Friends, (Cassell, Petter, and Galpin), is a collection of short stories for children, for the most part well designed and told. *Brave Lisette and other Tales*, by L. M. CARLESS (Cassell, Petter, and Galpin), is a similar collection, but of higher merit. There are two very good fairy tales in this volume. Both these works are well illustrated in colours by Kronheim. *Pictures and Stories of Natural History* (Nelsons) is the title of three separate and independent works, admirably got up, both as respects pictures and letterpress, and conveying, in plain and simple style, just those facts about elephants, tigers, &c., in which younger children delight. How such works as these can be produced at the price we cannot imagine.

*The Story of our Doll*. By Mrs. GEORGE CUPPLES, (London: Nelson and Sons.) This is "Dollikins," our friend of last year, in a new and more elaborate dress. It has grown under the hands of Mrs. Cupples into a regular but child-like story of the life and adventures of Black Bess, and is we are told, "a real story" and not "a fancied tale." The old wood-cuts simple mundis are worked in, many more are added, and the result is a good-sized gilt-edged and gay Christmas volume printed in large type. The little ones who have revelled in "Dollikins" will, we doubt not, be quite ready to welcome her "transformation" and advancement in dignity.

*In Whispers of a Shell; or, Stories from the Sea*, by FRANCES FREELING BROADBIP (Griffith and Farran) we have another successful attempt to combine the *utile* with the *duo*. There is no pretence here to original scientific research, but the author has wrought some of the facts of marine natural history, as given by Dr. Hartwig in his work on the Sea and its living wonders, into a story. We hope that the result may be to lure many young readers to the study of the charming book to which the author confesses herself much indebted.

*Peoples of the World*. By ETHELLIE PARKER-BELLOD (London: Cassell and Co.) A popular description of the different races, or rather nations of the earth, their physiognomy, dress, habits and occupations. The writer is a little discursive; and if more pains had been taken, the matter might have been compressed to advantages. But she supplies plenty of agreeable information. The illustrations, which are numerous, are unequal in merit, and we wonder why some of them have found a place in this volume.

*Home and its Association. A Book for Young Ladies*. By the Rev. HARVEY NEWCOMB. (Edinburgh: Gall and Inglis.) An American book which all girls might read with much profit if they could be got to do so. Half of it they would read if the other half were not there. All of it would do them good if they would read it. The table of contents, however, would be sure to choke them off. The half we are afraid of is too didactic.

*Tony and Puss*. Translated from the French of P. J. Stahl, with twenty-four illustrations from designs by LORENZ FROLICH. (London: Seeley, Jackson, and Halliday.) This is a nursery book, and a nursery book of a very high order, sure to amuse the little ones. The letter-press is scanty, but good. The charm of the book is in its engravings, which are well done, and of a style which children can fully appreciate, and with which they are certain to be delighted.

*Bible Wonders*. By RICHARD NEWTON, D.D. (Edinburgh: W. Oliphant and Co.) A book that the children will read, and with avidity. A book of sermons in form, but of such sermons as most hearers would wish all sermons were: full of information, full of historical illustration. Christian fathers and mothers will find it an admirable gift book for the season.

We must not forget *Little Paul's Christmas* (Religious Tract Society), one of the untearable quarto books for little children after the "Aunt Louisa" pattern. The coloured plates are excellent, and the story, told in verse, very touching, and, we need hardly add, very appropriate at this time.

*Peter Parley's Annual* (Ben George), comes round again with strong ornamental binding and colored illustrations. There is plenty of reading in it, but not so special in character as to mark it off from other collections of stories which we have noticed.

*Little Blue Mantle; or, The Poor Man's Friend. A True Story*. (Edinburgh: W. Oliphant and Co.) A wee little wedge of a book, holding a story which the wee little folk will devour and be the better for.

*The Children's Picture Pastime* (Sampson, Low, and Marston) is an importation from Holland or Germany. It consists of twenty-four assorted picture sheets in six packet, size about 11 inches by 14. These are not pictures in the ordinary sense, but like the "Picture Puzzle Toy Books" which we saw for the first time last year, they are to a large extent left blank; the various forms and figures which give life and colour to the scene having to be picked and carefully cut out from the margin where they are all heaped together in delightful confusion. The excitement of restoring these isolated and dismembered fragments to their proper position, and of watching the development of the picture by this process, is most pleasant to witness. We

can promise our young friends a very unusual treat if they get hold of this pastime.

#### MESSRS. KELLY'S DIRECTORIES.

From this unrivalled "Directory Manufactory" we have received no less than four new directories for 1871.

The London Directory is too well known to need commendation. It stands alone among City Directories, distancing all competitors. Messrs. Kelly will, we imagine, be among those who will reap substantial advantage from the new halfpenny postal arrangements. Many tradesmen and others who would not incur the expense of the penny post will be tempted by the reduced rate to issue their circulars freely, and they cannot find a better street list, trade list, or suburban list than Messrs. Kelly's directories will afford. The Home Counties Directory will be found especially useful for such purposes, embracing as it does the counties of Middlesex, Kent, Surrey, Sussex, Essex, and Herts. This work is a most valuable one in all respects. It is more than a directory, it partakes also of the character of a history, or local chronicle and guide. This will be seen on reference to the principal towns and villages as they occur in alphabetical order in their respective counties. The historical record is especially full for a work of this kind. An excellent map of each county is given, and the names of the principal residents given under the heads of the particular neighbourhood in which they reside and of the general county directory.

The Building Trades Directory and The Engineers and Iron and Metal Trades Directory belong to a class of works which are almost invaluable to some persons. To give an idea of their construction we may say that in the Metal Trades Directory there are about three or four hundred distinct trades under this head, and the names of traders in England, Scotland, and Wales, are given both under the head of the particular branch of the metal trade to which they belong, and under the alphabetical register of counties and towns. The same principle is followed in the Building Trades Directory. Not the least useful feature of these directories is the advertising department, which supplies detailed information not to be found in this shape in any other compilation designed for public use.

#### Gleanings.

An association, to be known as the American Association for the Cure of Inebriates, has been formed in New York.

Typhoid fever annually destroys from 15,000 to 18,000 lives, and sickens and endangers six or eight times that number of persons.

An Ohio murderer, who escaped conviction on the plea of insanity, now refuses to pay his lawyers for the same reason.

Somebody said to Jerrold, "I have just had some salt-a-tail soup"; when the wit replied, "Well, extremes do meet sometimes."

"You have only yourself to please," said a Benedict to an old bachelor. "True," replied he; "but you cannot tell what a difficult task I find it!"

A widow, named Stevenson, residing in St. Gregory's, Norwich, has attained her 101st year. She has a daughter seventy-seven years of age. This daughter is a widow, having lost three husbands. She is, however, about to marry again.

"It seems to me I have seen your physiognomy somewhere before," said a fop to a stranger whom he met, "but I cannot imagine where." "Very likely," replied the other; "I have been the governor of a prison for the last twenty years."

A Birmingham woman who attacked a gentleman in that town on the night of the 22nd of October, and tried to rob him, was tried at Warwick Assizes on Wednesday and sentenced to fifteen years' penal servitude, several previous convictions having been proved against her.

Those who say the best way to preserve peace is to be prepared for war, lend their sanction to the endless accumulation of inflammable materials which require the merest match of an accident to kindle into a blaze of war. A standing army is a disease of nations which may be called suppressed war, and which is only a less evil than war itself.

**DIVORCE MADE EASY.**—The Indianapolis Journal complains that discontented husbands and wives from Russia, France, England, Germany, the Canadas, and every State in the Union, flock to Indiana to procure divorces. The law of the State, it appears, allows divorces for a great many cases; but the most singular feature in these enactments is that a separation is to be accorded "for any other cause for which the Court shall deem it proper that a divorce shall be granted." This last proviso allows the utmost latitude to judges and individual opinion.

**AN EPITAPH.**—Grief and business have seldom been thoroughly mixed than in the following obituary advertisement. The residence of the deceased we omit, and the name we have changed, therefore it will not worry his friends:—"Othniel Sitgreaves, we are sorry to state, has deceased. He departed this last Monday. He went thither without any struggle, and such is life. He kept a nice store, which his wife now waits on. His virochews was numerous and his wife inherits them. We are happy to state that he never cheated, especially in the wate of makarel, which was always nice and smelt sweat, and his survivin' wife is the same. We never new him to put sand in his sugar, though he had a big

sand-bar in front of his house, nor water his lickers, though the Ohio river passed his door. Piece tu his remanes. He leaves 1 wife, 9 children, 1 kow, 4 horses, a grower's and other quadrooped to mourn his loss."—*Harper's New Monthly Magazine*.

**MR. WARD BEECHER ON RICHES.**—The *New York Times* reports the Rev. Henry Ward Beecher as saying, in his recent sermon on Thanksgiving Day:—"When I look at our immense resources, and consider the spirit of our people, I feel that all the splendid dreams of our poets will fall short of the glorious reality. There are fortunes to be made in this country yet, in comparison with which those at the present day will fall into insignificance. The time will come when the possession of a million dollars will not be considered enough to entitle a man to take rank among the rich of our land. This prospect is a source of pleasure to me, and I say, in view of it, 'Get money at any price short of the sacrifice of your manhood and personal honour.' People who take ground against riches are generally without any themselves. It is true that wealth may be a power for evil in the land, but there is nothing in the nature of things that necessitates that." (The *Times*, not inappropriately, heads this paragraph, "An American View of Dives.")

**NOTICE.**—All announcements intended for this column must be accompanied by a remittance of half-a-crown in postage stamps.

#### Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

##### MARRIAGE.

**BATTERSBY - BURKITT.**—Nov. 29, at the Congregational Church, Lytham, by the Rev. S. Clarkson, Thomas Battersby, of Her Majesty's Customs, to Mary Burkitt, of Lytham.

##### DEATHS.

**PLUMMER.**—Dec. 16, at 3, Homer-terras, Hackney Wick, London, of scarlet fever, Ada Mary, aged four years and two days, only daughter of John and Mary Ann Plummer, late of Kettering.

##### BANK OF ENGLAND.

(From Wednesday's *Gazette*.)

An Account, pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th Victoria, cap. 39, for the week ending Wednesday, Dec. 14.

##### ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes issued .... £37,021,130 Government Debt £11,015,100  
Other Securities .. 3,984,900  
Gold Coin & Bullion 22,021,130

£37,021,130

£37,021,130

##### BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital £14,553,000 Government Securities  
Bank ..... 8,077,234 (inc. dead  
Public Deposits ..... 6,788,938 weight annually) £12 9 5 855  
Other Deposits .... 18,659,747 Other Securities .. 15,937,169  
Seven Day and other Notes ..... 14,185,595  
Bills ..... 8,129 Gold & Silver Coin 871,58

£48,920,203

£48,920,203

GEO. FORBES, Chief Cashier.

**HOLLOWAY'S OINTMENT AND PILLS.**—Much watchfulness must be exercised as winter advances, and the earliest evidences of ill-health must be immediately checked and removed, or a slight illness may result in a serious malady. Relaxed and sore throat, diphtheritis, quinsy, throat cough, chronic cough, bronchitis, and most other pulmonary affections, will be relieved by rubbing this cooling Ointment into the skin, as near as practicable to the seat of mischief. This treatment, so simple and effective, is admirably adapted for the removal of these diseases during infancy and youth. Old asthmatic invalids will derive marvellous relief from the use of Holloway's remedies, which have brought round many such sufferers and re-established health, after every other means had signally failed.

**NOTICE.—KINAHAN'S LL. WHISKY DENT.**—Kinahan and Co. have removed to their new and spacious premises, No. 64, Great Titchfield-street, Oxford-street, leading from Margaret-street, Regent-street, and Market-street, Oxford-street. Kinahan's LL. Whisky.—This famous and most delicious old mellow spirit is the very cream of Irish Whiskies, in quality unrivalled, perfectly pure, and more wholesome than the finest Cognac Brandy. Can be obtained all over the kingdom, in the well-known sealed and labelled bottles, or in bond for exportation at the London Docks. Wholesale Agent to Messrs. Bass, Guinness, and Younger, and Dealers in Foreign Wines and Spirits.

#### Markets.

##### CORN EXCHANGE, MARK LANE, Monday, Dec. 19.

The supply of English wheat for this morning's market was short, and mostly in poor condition. Arrivals from abroad are moderate. Sales of English wheat progressed slowly, at a decline of 1s. to 2s. per qr. from the price of Monday last. Foreign wheat also must be quoted 1s. per qr. lower. Flour sold at 1s. per sack and 6d. per brit. decline. Peas, beans, and Indian corn were unchanged in value. Malting barley gave way 1s., and grinding barley 6d., in value. Of oats we have fair arrivals, but the demand was less active, and new Swedish sold at 6d. to 1s. per qr. decline compared with the quotations of this day week. At the ports of call arrivals are large. Cargoes of fine quality meet demand and maintain their value.

##### CURRENT PRICES.

WHEAT—	Per qr.	Per qr.	
Barley and Kent, red ..	— to —	PEAS—	
Ditto new ..	49 51	Grey ..	36 to 38
White ..	54 56	Maple ..	41 42
," new ..	54 56	White ..	36 40
Foreign red ..	50 53	Boilers ..	36 40
," white ..	52 56	Foreign, boilers ..	38 39
BARLEY—		RYE ..	36 28
English malting ..	31 34	OATS—	
Chevalier ..	36 42	English feed ..	22 23
Distilling ..	34 38	" potato ..	27 31
Foreign ..	53 55	Booch feed ..	—
MALT—		" potato ..	—
Pale ..	—	Irish black ..	19 22
Chevalier ..	—	," white ..	20 23
Brown ..	40 54	Foreign feed ..	20 23
BEANS—		FLOUR—	
Ticks ..	38 41	Town made ..	44 47
Harrow ..	41 45	Country Marks ..	37 39
Small ..	—	Norfolk & Suffolk ..	36 38
Egyptian ..	38 39		

**BREAD.**—London, Saturday, Dec. 17.—The prices in the Metropolis are, for Wheaten Bread, per 4lb. loaf, 7d.; 1d. for Household Bread, 6d. to 7d.

**METROPOLITAN CATTLE MARKET.**—Monday, Dec. 19.—The total imports of foreign stock into London last week amounted to 11,157 head. In the corresponding week in 1869 we received 7,918; in 1868, 8,926; in 1867, 7,614; and in 1866, 8,935 head. The cattle trade has been in a quiet state to-day. The weather has again been unfavourable, and as butchers have in a great measure already supplied their Christmas wants, business has progressed slowly. About an average supply of beasts has been on sale, in, generally speaking, good condition. The trade has been dull, and the extreme rates for the best Scots did not exceed 5s. 10d. to 6s. per 8lbs. From Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, and Northamptonshire we received about 1,500 shorthorn, &c.; from other parts of England 350 various breeds; from Scotland 191 Scots and crosses; and from Ireland about 250 oxen. There has been only a moderate supply of sheep in the pens. The trade has been quiet, but firm. The best Downs and half-breds have sold at 6s. 2d. to 6s. 4d. per 8lbs. Calves have been in limited request, and there has been very little inquiry for pigs.

Per 8lbs. to sink the offal.

s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Inf. coarse beasts	3 6 to 4 4	Prime Scotchdown	6 0 to 6 4
Second quality	4 6 4 10	Lambs ..	0 0 0 0
Prime large oxen	5 4 5 8	Large calves ..	3 8 4 4
Prime So. to, &c.	5 10 6 0	Prime small ..	5 0 6 2
Coarse inf. sheep	6 3 10	Large hogs ..	4 4 5 3
Second quality	4 4 4 8	Meat ..	5 6 6 4
Pr. coarse woolly	2 5 10	porkers ..	5 6 6 4
Suckling calves, —s. to —s., and Quarter-old store pig, 2s.			to 2s. each.

**METROPOLITAN MEAT MARKET.**—Monday, Dec. 19.—Our market has been moderately supplied with meat. Rather more animation has been noticed in the inquiry, at our quotations. The imports into London last week consisted of 1,046 packages from Hamburg, 40 Antwerp, 6 Rotterdam, and 48 Helsingør.

Per 8lbs. by the carcass.

s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Inferior beef ..	3 0 to 3 4	Prime ditto ..	4 8 5 4
Middling ditto ..	4 0 4 4	Veal ..	5 0 5 4
Prime large do. ..	5 0 5 2	Large pork ..	2 8 3 0
Do. small do. ..	5 0 5 4	Small pork ..	3 8 4 4
Inf. mutton ..	8 8 4 0	Lamb ..	0 0 0 0
Middling ditto ..	4 0 4 4		

**PROVISIONS.**—Monday, Dec. 19.—The arrivals last week from Ireland were 1,505 flocks butter, and 3,557 bales bacon, and from foreign ports 15,027 packages butter, and 1,859 bales bacon. We have nothing particular to notice respecting the butter market. Prices of foreign ruled about as this day week. The bacon market declined about 6s. on Irish and Hamburg meat, the demand being slow, and supplies good.

**COVENT GARDEN MARKET.**—Saturday, Dec. 17.—There is a slight improvement among the wholesale dealers, and orders from the provincial markets are more general than for some time past, but heavy consignments are difficult to dispose of. The return of the mild weather induces large orders to give way. We do not expect any improvement in the potato market during the present month. Amongst flowers we have Orchids, Chrysanthemums, Heaths, Cyclamen, Primulas, Tulips, Camellias, and Pelargoniums, and a large supply of dwarf evergreens and "Christmas trees."

**BOROUGH HOP MARKET.**—Monday, Dec. 19.—Considering the advanced period of the season, the demand for all choice and colour qualities is strong, and prices remain firm. A moderate request prevails for low and medium grades, which are still plentiful, and show no improvement in value. No new feature is visible in our foreign market, which is still inactive for all but the best grades. Imports up to the present amount to 14,557 bales. No change is reported in the New York market. Mid. and West Kent, 1s. 18s. 21s. 22s. 23s. 24s. 25s. 26s. 27s. 28s. 29s. 30s. 31s. 32s. 33s. 34s. 35s. 36s. 37s. 38s. 39s. 40s. 41s. 42s. 43s. 44s. 45s. 46s. 47s. 48s. 49s. 50s. 51s. 52s. 53s. 54s. 55s. 56s. 57s. 58s. 59s. 60s. 61s. 62s. 63s. 64s. 65s. 66s. 67s. 68s. 69s. 70s. 71s. 72s. 73s. 74s. 75s. 76s. 77s. 78s. 79s. 80s. 81s. 82s. 83s. 84s. 85s. 86s. 87s. 88s

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BRACELETS, STRAP, 18-CARAT £5 0

BRACELETS, ETRUSCAN, " £7 0

BRACELETS, NINEVEH, " £10 0

BRACELETS, SAXON, " £15 0

BROOCHES, ETRUSCAN, " £2 10

BROOCHES, NINEVEH, " £3 0

BROOCHES, SAXON, " £4 0

BROOCHES, EGYPTIAN, " £5 0

CHAINS, PRINCESS, " £2 0

CHAINS, CYLINDER, " £3 0

CHAINS, CURB, " £4 0

CHAINS, CABLE, " £5 0

EARRINGS, ETRUSCAN, " £1 10

EARRINGS, SAXON, " £2 5

EARRINGS, EGYPTIAN, " £3 5

EARRINGS, NINEVEH, " £4 10

LOCKETS, ENGRAVED, " £1 0

LOCKETS, CORDED, " £2 10

LOCKETS, CROSS, " £4 0

GOLD WATCHES, LADIES', £8 8

GOLD WATCHES, " £10 10

GOLD WATCHES, 4-PLATE, £15 15

GOLD WATCHES (HUNTING), £11 11

GOLD WATCHES, 4-PLATE, £16 16

GOLD WATCHES, " £20 0

GOLD WATCHES, KEYLESS £15 10

GOLD WATCHES, " £22 0

GOLD WATCHES (HUNTING), £18 18

CLOCKS, CARRIAGE, £5 0

CLOCKS, " (STRIKING), £7 7

CLOCKS, " (ON GONG), £12 12

CLOCKS, LIBRARY (MARBLE), £4 0

CLOCKS, " " £10 12

CLOCKS, " " £14 0

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CLOCKS, " " £15 0

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